

Inside this issue:

David Austin & Mark Wojcik	1, 2-3
Cassandra Hill	1, 4-5
Susie Salmon	1, 6-7
Committee Members and Statements	8
Next Month's Profiles	8

LWI Lives is a regular electronic publication of the "Faces of LWI" Committee, which explores and communicates the emerging identity of the LWI and its members. We have in common the commitment to being the best legal writing professors that we can be and are multi-dimensional people with different strengths, interests, curiosities, and gifts. By profiling individuals in our community, we hope to expand and develop our understanding of who we are and what we aspire to be.

Honeymoon, Hurricanes and Happiness: Our Wedding Story



By Bob Brain

Well, two of our own got married this summer: Mark Wojcik from John Marshall and David Austin from Cal Western. I had a chance to speak to them about the wedding, each other, and their observations on the legal writing community:

For more on Mark and David, see page 2.

Biking, Busy but Balanced in Houston



By Olympia Duhart

In her free time, Professor Cassandra Hill enjoys jumping on her brown Schwinn hybrid bike and riding through the city of Houston. It's a simple pleasure that brings her so much joy. It's also a treat that has become even more and more infrequent these days.

For more on Cassandra, see page 4.

Rockin' In the Desert



By Tamara Herrera

Once upon a time, in Paso Robles, California, there was a little girl who dreamed of being a novelist, a screen actress, and a rock star. All of her dreams eventually came true, but not quite in the ways she imagined.

For more on Susie Salmon, see page 6.



LegalWriting
institute

David Austin and Mark Wojcik, continued



BB: Tell us about the wedding.

MW: We were married on August 14 in Hawaii before Judge Steven Levinson, the author of the first decision in the world recognizing the state had to show a compelling reason why it refused to recognize marriage equality.

DA: Come on, Mark; Bob wants us to be interesting. We were not supposed to be married on the 14th, but on the 6th, which would have been the twentieth anniversary of our meeting. But when we landed in Oahu on the 6th, the first of the Hawaiian hurricanes this summer was on the way, and we found out that Judge Levinson's father was ill and he had left for the mainland. So we decided to go on our honeymoon anyway and figured if the marriage was meant to be, somehow it would work out. We flew to the big island, just ahead of the second hurricane, and stayed there until the 14th, when we flew back to Oahu. We were going to fly out that night, but we found out that judge had returned he invited us to his home, where we were married with his wife, former Hawaiian Chief Justice Moon, who I clerked with for two years, and

his wife, in attendance. Given we were supposed to fly out that evening, Mark suggested that we be married in the Baggage Claim area of the Oahu airport since all marriages come with some baggage . . .

BB: There are very few marriages among LRW Professors. Do you think it's a fear that the kids might be named IRAC and CREAC?

DA: No, it's probably because with the salaries for LRW Professors, we can't afford it.

BB: Instead of fighting about leaving socks under the bed, do you guys fight about things like one of you using a gerund when it should be a past participle?

DA: When I was in law school, any time we had cross words, Mark blamed it on the Bar Exam. I mean – I could have been in my third semester and we'd yell at each other and Mark would say, "Is this because of the pressure of the Bar Exam?" "No, it's because I did the cooking and the dishes two nights in a row!" Finally I

I remember reading him a beautiful passage from *Bleak House*, all about the fog rolling in over London. . . When I got finished, Mark asked, "Do you want me to correct it and put it into plain English?"



LegalWriting
institute

David Austin and Mark Wojcik, continued

passed the Bar and I was never happier, but sure enough, six months later something came up and Mark said, “Is this about the Bar Exam?” And I could finally say, “You can’t use that one anymore.”

BB: What do you guys like to do when you get together? Are you sports fans, great chefs or what?

MW: Travel is one of the things we really like to do.

DA: I love to read fiction. Mark doesn’t like fiction very much, and I’m always trying to get him to read more. One time I remember reading him a beautiful passage from *Bleak House*, all about the fog rolling in over London. It was a long sentence, but very understandable and just lovely. When I got finished, Mark asked, “Do you want me to correct it to put it into plain English?”

BB: Mark, tell me something about David that we probably don’t know.

MW: David is Barbra Streisand’s biggest fan among legal writing professors.

BB: And David, something we don’t know about Mark?

DA: Well, Mark is a member of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, but people may know about that. Oh I know, Mark has completed several marathons.

BB: Mark, what’s your best time?

MW: I finished; that’s all I’ll say.

BB: The LWI turns 30 this year.

Where do you see the legal writing profession at 60?

MW: I am worried about the capability of our students. I’m worried about reading skills are decreasing as electronic usage in going up. I think we need to get a handle on technology.

DA: 30 years is such a long time. I’m sure there will be many changes. I worry about the current trend of law schools dipping further into the applicant pool, and so how do we teach the same skills in the same amount of time to them? But it may not be so much of an issue, because I think in 30 years, there will likely be fewer law schools, and so perhaps the students will be the same. I do see the skills we teach becoming solidified in the curriculum as there will be a greater acceptance that one function of a law school is as a professional training school.

BB: Last question. As you reflect back on your teaching career, can you think of a student who surprised you or you were particularly proud of?

MW: There were a couple of students who came to me for help on an independent study. And I thought their ideas were so good that I encouraged them to publish them, and they each published a book – one on Islamic finance law, and one on Chinese trademarks.

DA: I’ve only been teaching five years, so I have not taught a student who has had a long career that I can reflect on. But there was one student I think about. At our school, you can withdraw after the first semester if you are not succeeding academically and be reinstated twelve months later. It is a hard decision for students, and there was a woman who

Something we don’t know about Mark?

... Mark has completed several marathons.

decided to accept the deal and take some time off. When she came back, through her hard work and the encouragement of the faculty, she ended up doing very well, was an editor of the law review in her third year, and got a good job. And I look back on her as a reminder that success comes at different times to different students, and that everyone’s learning curve is different. We just have to be there to help when they are ready.

David Austin: daustin@cwsl.edu
Mark Wojcik: 7wojcik@jmls.edu



LegalWriting
institute

Cassandra Hill, continued

Blame two things for the limited riding time: Houston's heat index and Hill's incredibly busy schedule.

Yes, Houston is hot. And Hill is quite busy. She is incredibly active on the campus of Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, where she is proud to lead the Legal Writing Program. She also serves on the University level as the law school's representative for the faculty senate, and a member of the advisory board for Texas Southern University Center for Teaching and Excellence. In the community, Hill is active on the Board of Managers for the Houston Texans YMCA, which services a predominantly African-American community. Nationally, she recently wrapped a very successful stint as chair for the 2014 Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference. She also serves on the Board of Directors for

the Legal Writing Institute. Then, of course, there is the biking.

"When things slow down and cool down, I am looking forward to going out in a couple of weeks," said Hill. "Once it gets cooler, my husband [Will Grogan] and I will get out and just ride. My typical path is about 10 miles. I really want a pro bike that goes faster. I don't know if I'm ready for it, but I want to try."

The combination of ambition and action makes Hill successful in her treasured bike time, but also is a good combination for her busy life in and beyond the classroom. She graduated first in her class at Howard University School of Law. She is now Director of the Legal Writing Program at Thurgood Marshall. In the Q and A below, Hill gives us a glimpse into her life. She reveals what it's like to work in her hometown, explains why teaching at an HBCU means so much to her, offers her formula for work-life bal-

ance and shares her special dream involving a member of pop music's royal family.

What is it like working in your hometown?

I was born and raised in Houston. My father was a professor and vice president at Texas Southern University. It's like I've come full circle where I'm teaching at the institution he loved and where he taught and was an administrator.

What is it like to teach at Thurgood Marshall School of Law?

It presents a unique opportunity to teach a truly diverse group of students. They are diverse in many ways – in terms of their race and ethnicity and background and age. Teaching at UCLA was wonderful, but most of them were straight out of college. Here I will have a handful of students for whom this is a second career, students from all walks of life and students who are the first ones in



How do you strive to achieve work-life balance? . . .
I am married to a comedian and comedy writer, so that helps a lot!

Cassandra Hill, continued



What is your ultimate fantasy? . . .

Being a back-up dancer for Janet Jackson.

their family to attend college. I feel like I'm given this blessed opportunity to make a difference for the students and our community.

If you could take a week off – no emails, writing deadlines, class preparation or grading – what would you like to do?

I would definitely travel. Will and I would go somewhere, preferably a walkable city where we can rent bikes and explore the city. Any travel now ends up being the conferences I have to go to. But I would love to travel not connected to work in anyway. One of my favorite cities to visit is San Francisco. I just returned from Denver and I think that's a great place to explore. I would just try to hit different places.

How do you strive to achieve work-life balance?

I am married to a comedian and comedy writer, so that helps a lot! He teaches me not to sweat the small stuff and helps me keep things in perspective. We just laugh at everything. He points out funny things, and I always tell him that I am an entertainer in my own right, too. That is basically what we do every day. I also help him write at times. Having a supportive spouse has been so helpful to me.

Between all of your service efforts, your teaching and your personal life, your plate is really full. Do you have any other lessons about juggling it all?

The truth is I really wasn't doing as good a job with the balance part during my first few years at Thur-

good – trying to get so much done in so little time – that I was on the path to actually being burned out. But Will helped me in that respect. He finally said, "You have to change your perspective and approach to everything." I also started exercising more. I try to spend more time with my family. I keep in touch with others by Facebook and by phone. Walking. Biking. Eating right and getting adequate sleep. All those things the experts tell us are important are really important. I also make space for the writing and research aspect of the job. Once I started carving out this space for me, I just naturally became happier. That gave me the opportunity to get outside my world and go connect with others.

What is your ultimate fantasy?

Being a back-up dancer for Janet Jackson. Of course. I really love dance, especially hip hop dance, and admire people who do it so well. Back in the day, there were a few key performers who commanded the title "ultimate entertainer." In my opinion, Janet Jackson was one of them. I would have been thrilled to learn from her and try to keep up. And, what a great way to stay healthy and in shape!

Cassandra Hill: cahill@tmslaw.tsu.edu

Susie Salmon, continued



Most of us know Susie Salmon in her (loosely) novelist and actress roles: she is the Assistant Director of Legal Writing and an Associate Clinical Professor of Law at the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona in Tucson. "The frustrated actress in me probably thrives on the performance aspect, and the frustrated novelist loves coming up with interesting exercises and writing problems." Specifically, Susie runs the first-year legal writing program at the University of Arizona, which means she creates the curriculum for the program and supervises the professors who teach in the program. She also regularly teaches first-year students, in addition to her administrative role overseeing the College's Legal Skills Competition program and the annual 2L Moot Court Competition. Susie regularly coaches the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Program team and teaches a capstone writing course. Recently, she has been involved in implementing Arizona's new 3L bar program that allows selected students to sit for the bar exam during their last semester of law school.

Susie's writing and acting skills go well beyond the classroom. She is a volunteer for the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project and the Pima County Defender's Office. "[A] couple of summers ago, I second-chaired two trials, and we won both." Susie writes a monthly column on legal writing for *Arizona Attorney* (www.azbar.org/AZAttorney), and she just became Board Chair of the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. Susie loves helping animals and serving the people who love them, and she has two dogs herself (Phoebe, a 13-year-old shepherd mix, and Moose, an 18-month-old pit mix). "They have their own Facebook pages – that probably tells you all you need to know." It should come as no surprise that Susie was named a winner of the "40 under 40" by the *Arizona Daily Star*, and the Volunteer Lawyers Program named her the Pima County New Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year in 2007.

She is the lead singer of the Gotes...
They won first place in the State Bar
of Arizona's Battle of the Lawyer
Bands in 2013



Susie Salmon, continued



LegalWriting
institute

What does come as a surprise is that Susie has time outside of work to fulfill her other major dream – singing. She is the lead singer of the Gotes. The Gotes plays throughout the Tucson area and even appear most years at the annual law-school talent show, LawLawPalooza. The band also plays various fundraisers, and they won first place in the State Bar of Arizona’s Battle of the Lawyer Bands in 2013. Videos and more information are on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/thegotes>.

So, how does Susie define her “happily ever after”? Following is a snapshot of the things Susie loves. Maybe you can catch her performing some time, join her for a run, or dig into some delicious Mexican food together!

Favorite pastime (other than music): *About a year and a half ago, I started running, and I’m now sort of obsessed. I ran five half-marathons between October and March, and I plan to run several more this year. I particularly enjoy running (and making GPS maps with my Garmin) in different cities – in the past year, I’ve explored routes in Milwaukee, Philadelphia, New York City, Boston, Kansas City, Amherst, Waianae, Pasadena, and San Diego.*

Favorite type of music: *Rock/Pop. I’m pretty indiscriminate. My iPod is full of all kinds of stuff, from Nicki Minaj to Tony Bennett to old Broadway musicals to The Germs. My partner, Kevin, is a public defender, but he’s also a songwriter, a guitarist / vocalist / drummer / keyboard player, and he is currently in approximately a half-dozen bands, so I end up liking all of the different stuff they play (from punk to country to sixties/seventies rock). Kevin’s daughters also introduce me to artists like Kate Nash and The Wombats. Oh, and I’ll always be a thirteen-year-old Durannie at heart.*

Favorite band: *Aside from the Kevin Burke Solo Band (and The Gotes, of course), Cake. It was a lucky accident that they were playing at Summerfest in Milwaukee during last summer’s ALWD conference! I’m also sort of obsessed with a band called Babymetal.*

Favorite song: *I like to sing Pat Benatar’s Hit Me with Your Best Shot. When I need to get psyched for a rough day or a daunting task, though, my standby is Defying Gravity from the musical Wicked.*

Favorite movie: *Bull Durham. I quote it constantly. It’s almost always apt. Today is all about “I’m just happy to be here, and I hope that I can help the ball club.”*

Favorite book: *That changes, but right now I’d say Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie*

Favorite food: *Pretty much any spicy, vegetarian Mexican food. The potato tacos at Calle Tepa here in Tucson are to die for, and I could live on the green chile cheese enchiladas from Poco & Mom’s (technically New Mexican food). I could eat good Mexican food every night.*

Susie Salmon: susan.salmon@law.arizona.edu

Favorite movie: *Bull Durham.*
I quote it constantly. It’s almost always apt. Today is all about “I’m just happy to be here, and I hope that I can help the ball club.”

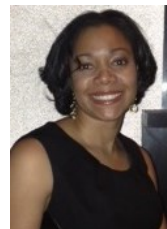
Selection and Presentation Process: We believe it important for the members of LWI to know our process for creating the newsletter. The Committee is organized into three teams, and each is responsible for selecting, proposing, and writing the three profiles for a particular issue of the newsletter. To ensure a diverse newsletter, the teams propose the names of the selected individuals to the Co-Chairs to ensure that there is a breadth of coverage for each issue. Additionally, the Co-Chairs are keeping a master list of all the profiles, so that we can ensure a wide range of coverage over time. The profiles in the newsletter are listed in alphabetical order.

The Faces of the LWI Committee exists to allow us to learn about the interesting lives of our colleagues. For that to happen, we want and need a diverse selection of legal writing professors to profile. If you have someone in mind that we should put on the list for a future newsletter, please feel free to contact any of our members at the e-mail addresses below. If you could include a note on why you think the individual would make particularly interesting profile, that will help us in developing priorities.

In *LWI Lives* next month look for profiles of:



Brad Clary
(Minnesota)



Shakira Pleasant
(Savannah)



Melissa Henke
(Kentucky)

Committee Members



Grace Hum, Co-Chair,
Univ. San Francisco
ghum@usfca.edu



Linda Edwards, Co-Chair,
UNLV
linda.edwards@unlv.edu



Bob Brain,
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
bob.brain@lls.edu



Sha-Shana Crichton,
Howard
scrichton@law.howard.edu



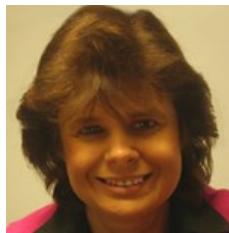
Olympia Duhart,
Nova
duharto@nsu.law.nova.edu



Tamara Herrera,
Ariz. State
tamara.herrera@asu.edu



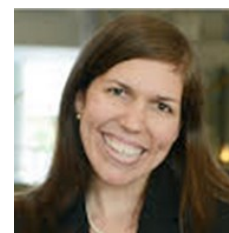
Greg Johnson,
Vermont
gjohnson@vermontlaw.edu



Karin Mika,
Cleveland-Marshall School of Law
karin.mika@law.csuohio.edu



Jennifer Romig,
Emory
jromig@emory.edu



Danielle Weatherby,
Univ. of Arkansas
dweath@uark.edu



LegalWriting
institute