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*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. But we are also 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.

### Harry Potter, Kevin Bacon, and Ian Gallacher



By Jennifer Romig

“I’m always looking for that narrative hook.” Ian Gallacher, Director of Legal Writing at Syracuse is talking about the narrative in a piece of music -- a narrative he is uniquely suited to feel and share because of his expertise as an orchestra conductor. Ian turned from music to law years ago but continues to draw connections between them.

**For more on Ian, see page 2.**

### Seven Books and Counting



By Grace Hum

*The Winter Guest*. If you haven’t read any of Pam Jenoff’s books, she says that’s the one you should read first. And if you take a look at the reviews on Amazon, her readers agree. Here’s what one reviewer had to say, “*The Winter Guest* is her best yet. Pam is one of the best Holocaust fiction writers today.”

**For more on Pam see page 4.**

### A Norwegian Vegan Among Us



By Greg Johnson

“Hva slags mat liker du best?”

Iselin laughs and answers without hesitation, “Sjokolade! Det eneste ting som er kanskje enda bedre er hjemmarsipan dekket med sjokolade!”

**For more on Iselin, see page 6.**



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## Ian Gallacher, continued



Last month he presented at the LWI's Moot Court Conference on "Kinetic Rhetoric: Lessons In Oral Advocacy From Orchestral Conducting." One of his most recent articles uses the metaphor of Edward Elgar's 1899 piece *Variations on an Original Theme* as a way of exploring contemporary themes about legal writing within the law school curriculum.

Ian grew up in a musical family in Edinburgh, Scotland. "I could read music before I could read English," he said. Ian also had the distinction of attending Hogwarts. Literally. With apologies to the "literally" haters, this is a decent case for its usage because Ian's alma mater, the George Heriot's School in Edinburgh, did in fact inspire J.K. Rowlings. She wrote *Harry Potter* from a cafe that gave her a clear view of George Heriot's gothic campus.

Ian got his college degree in music from the University of Leeds. He considered a variety of graduate conducting programs in Europe and ultimately auditioned by tape to the program at Carnegie-Mellon, bringing him to the

U.S. for the first prolonged period in his life. Carnegie-Mellon is also where Ian met his wife, Julie McKinstry, a graduate student in opera at the time. "She was the Susanna in a production of *Marriage of Figaro* for which I was the assistant conductor," Ian recalls.

After graduating, Ian conducted an orchestra in Pittsburgh, then took another step deeper into conducting. Ian and Julie moved back to Europe where she sang in the opera house in Regensburg, Germany, and he competed in a variety of conducting competitions. Around age 30, Ian faced a significant choice: pursue a doctorate in conducting or take another path. At that point, he turned to law.

He said this choice although quite a departure from music felt "natural and comfortable." There was the common thread of narrative. In music, Ian said, "You use your sense of form and line to inform the interpretation and convey it to the orchestra, and through the orchestra to the audience." Music and law also share the common thread of hard work. "Music gives you self-discipline. You have to do the work yourself—just put yourself in a room and make terrible noises."

### Ian's Favorite Kind of Music

"All forms of classical music, but I have a sneaking fondness for really bad rock-n-roll and '60s and '70s pop music."



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## Ian Gallacher, continued

Ian attended the Washington College of Law at American University from whence he obtained a federal clerkship, practiced at a law firm, and made partner. He served as an adjunct at the University of Baltimore Law School with mentor Eric Easton. In Ian's law practice, he worked on a big case for a long time and, when it was over, felt at loose ends. At that point he went on the job market and met one of his mentors, Penny Pether. He taught at American with Penny for two years and then became director of Syracuse's legal writing program in 2004. Ian expressed gratitude to a number of mentors who helped him at the beginning of his legal-writing career as well as along the way. "The hype about this being a friendly, approachable group of people is true. Speed mentoring is great, but if you want to reach out to someone, just write to them. I can't think of a person I've approached with a question who hasn't helped."

Quoting Dorothy Parker, Ian said he doesn't really like to write, "but I like having written." He's a prolific and interesting writer; anyone seeking a model of creativity and productivity would be well advised to check out Ian's work. Apart from his track record with articles, Ian has written style guides for lawyers and paralegals. He also has a new legal writing textbook in the final stages of production. It is student-focused and designed to be read outside of class. Professors will be able to assign the chapters in a variety of orders fitting their needs.

One more important point about Ian Gallacher: he's one degree of separation from Kevin Bacon. (In this way, Ian's life embodies legal writing vis a vis Mary Beth Beazley's theory of persuasion by finding one's "Kevin Bacon" in an appellate brief.) In 1981, Ed Harris came to Pittsburgh to film the movie *Knightriders*, a sort of Arthurian legend on motor-bikes. The movie centered on personal

drama within a traveling troupe of Renaissance actors led by Harris's character. Harris of course would later star in *Apollo 13* with Kevin Bacon. Ian Gallacher skillfully supported Harris on the set of *Knightriders*. His role? Musician #2.

### **Favorite Hobby**

Photography.

### **Favorite Kind of Music**

All forms of classical music, but I have a sneaking fondness for really bad rock-n-roll and '60s and '70s pop music.

### **Favorite Musician**

Carlos Kleiber, the incomparable Argentinian/Swiss/German conductor. Or the Beatles.

### **Favorite Song**

Taken literally, Strauss' "Morgen." Taken less literally, Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro (especially if [his wife] Julie's singing)." Or Bach's "Matthew Passion." Or Grinderswitch's "Pickin' the Blues." Or . . .

### **Favorite Movie**

*Holiday Inn*. Except for the Lincoln's Birthday segment which I have to fast-forward past.

### **Favorite Book**

*A Bear Called Paddington*. Good manners, good intentions, and marmalade sandwiches are the answer to almost every problem.

### **Favorite Food**

Everything I eat at home. Although I am partial to Lamb Vindaloo.

"Music gives you self-discipline. You have to do the work yourself—just put yourself in a room and make terrible noises."

**Ian Gallacher:**  
igallach@law.syr.edu



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## Pam Jenoff, continued

Before I say anything else, let me just say: Pam is AMAZING! Not only does she have an interesting and varied life today, but her past work experiences could fill the pages of a novel, too. Like her books, the chapters of her life will fascinate and engage you—you just want to keep learning more about her.

When Pam worked for the Pentagon as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, she helped the families of the Pan Am Flight 103 victims raise their memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, observed the recovery efforts of the Oklahoma City bombing, and attended ceremonies to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II.

Then she moved on to the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer where she was assigned to work at the U.S. Consulate in Krakow, Poland. There were very few Americans in Eastern Europe at the time. Pam was only in her 20s, so this was an incredibly challenging and rewarding time for her. Although she worked on important matters, such as anti-Semitism, preserving Auschwitz,

and the restitution of Jewish property, she also developed close relationships with the surviving Jewish community. Some of the elderly survivors became like grandparents to Pam. So when she returned to America, she was profoundly moved and changed by these experiences.

The next chapter of her life includes graduating cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania Law School with a job at a big firm in hand. But one week to the day before she became a practicing attorney, the events of 9/11 occurred. This was a turning point for Pam. She had an epiphany. She had always dreamed of becoming a novelist, so this was her time. She enrolled in a writing course at Temple called, “Write your Novel this Year,” and she hasn’t looked back since.

But before we get to her books, let’s just bring us to date on Pam’s other professional accomplishments. While taking the writing course and starting to write her first novel, Pam practiced labor and employment law at Morgan,

Lewis & Bockius. She then moved on to become the Assistant General Counsel for Exelon Business Services Company.

She now works full time as a law professor at Rutgers School of Law – Camden, teaching Legal Analysis, Writing & Research; Evidence; Employment Law; and Employment Discrimination. And if you’re curious, she also publishes scholarly law review articles on varied topics, ranging from equality and discrimination to ethical problems of in-house counsel to how the challenges of the legal profession haven’t changed in the last century.

And have I mentioned yet that Pam is married with three kids and has written a total of seven books? And did you know that one of them, *The Kommandant’s Girl*, was an international bestseller and nominated for a Quill Award? Her characters and the stories that she writes come from her experiences while living in Poland. She calls her books “love songs to Jewish Europe.”

When I asked Pam how she manages a full time job, a robust writing schedule, and



Pam roughing it in Eastern Europe back in the 90s

### Pam’s Favorite Quote

“I used to not be able to work if there were dishes in the sink. Then I had a child and now I can work if there is a corpse in the sink.”

Anne Lamont



## Pam Jenoff, continued



“With luminous simplicity, Jenoff’s breathtaking debut chronicles the life of a young Jewish bride during the Nazi occupation of Krakow, Poland, in WWII.... This is historical romance at its finest.”

Publishers Weekly on  
*The Kommandant’s Girl*

the day-to-day challenges of family life, she responded by saying, “I do too many things and none of them well. But in truth, I really love it all. If I won Powerball tomorrow, I would still do what I’m doing.”

If you’re a closeted, want-to-be writer, here’s some advice from Pam about how to make the leap:

1. Be disciplined. Carve it out of your life. Even if it means saying no to things.
2. Be tenacious. There is lots of rejection.
3. Revise. Being a great writer is learning to revise.

GH: Tell us three things about yourself that we can’t find on the Internet.

PJ: I am a raging Philadelphia Eagles fan – season tickets for 15 years. I have the worst musical taste in the world; as in Mandy Patinkin meets Survivor. And I am a sucker for law school bake sales.

GH: Describe your perfect vacation.

PJ: It’s been six years since my last trip to Europe and I’m very eager to get back to both England and Poland. Also I’ve only been to the islands once for my honeymoon and I could use a few days on a beach. Neither seems likely to happen anytime soon!

GH: Tell us about your family and describe each person’s personalities.

PJ: I have a son who is five. He recently made a book in kindergarten and came home and said, “There’s not just one author in this family anymore!” I have two girls who are four and could not be more different from one another. With three kids this young, it is a party all the time – we never close. We laugh so much! I’m so blessed to have a husband who can juggle kids when I work and travel, a mom down the road who helps us eight days a week, and an amazing brother.

GH: What do you want to be when you “grow up”?

PJ: Exactly what I am right now. I have found my happy place, writing, teaching and family. Now I just have to manage my time to do it all.

GH: What’s your favorite thing about teaching legal research and writing?

PJ: My students. Rutgers students are hardworking and unentitled and I will do anything I can to help them succeed. I also love bringing real world context to the legal writing classroom from day one.

**Pam Jenoff:** [pjenoff@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:pjenoff@camden.rutgers.edu)



Pam holding a copy of *A Hidden Affair*

## Iselin Gambert, continued



Iselin and her Mom, Gry Gambert  
Photo taken at the Tidal Basin,  
Washington, D.C.  
2011

Iselin Gambert, Associate Professor of Legal Research & Writing at the George Washington University Law School, is a dual citizen of Norway and the United States. Iselin's mother was Norwegian; her father is a Brooklyn Jew. Iselin spent every summer of her childhood in Norway. Iselin's brother lives in Oslo, and she regularly visits his family and the rest of her extended family there. She is, of course, fluent in Norwegian. This is why it was easy for her to answer the question above, "What's your favorite kind of food?" with, "Chocolate! The only thing that might be better than chocolate is homemade marzipan covered in chocolate!"

Iselin has been teaching legal writing at GW since 2009. In that short time, she has contributed much to our community. She presents regularly at legal writing conferences and is on the editorial board of *The Second Draft*. Iselin led the team in charge of food services for the LWI Conference in Philadelphia last summer. She worked hard to provide exciting menus appealing to a wide range of tastes. (I met Iselin while complimenting the fare at

the Gala.) Iselin is vegan, and she especially appreciated the Marriott staff's solicitude and flexibility in recognizing the dietary restrictions (can we call them opportunities?) of the attendees. The staff's care and attention to detail had almost comical ends, like labeling "Pork Sausage" with "Contains Pork." Iselin longs for the day (and so do I) when a major legal writing conference offers an all "plant-based" food plan. She says this would be an "inspiring, significant achievement."

Iselin spent nine weeks this past April-June as a Visiting Scholar at Melbourne Law School in Australia. She collaborated with faculty who work in the areas of legal writing, professional development, and student wellness. Legal writing is taught much differently in Australia – so differently that it's not explicitly taught at all (not as a standalone course, anyway). Faculty members at Melbourne were eager to hear from Iselin about our model (s) for teaching legal writing. They were especially interested in how we give such detailed and quality feedback on student papers. Iselin offered workshops on feed-

back for faculty, law firms, and Legal Aid. She drafted and distributed a detailed eight-page guide (with an extensive and excellent source list) synthesizing best practices on feedback she learned from a variety of scholars in our field. I recommend it for any new (or experienced) legal writing professor. Ask her for it!

Iselin has known great joy in her life, but she has also experienced great loss. When she was 24 and just weeks from starting law school, her boyfriend died without warning. Then, right after Iselin graduated from law school, her mother was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer. Her mother waited until after Iselin took the Bar to tell her. Iselin's mother died five years later, in 2012.

Iselin found that, in our society, friends and colleagues—even supportive ones—expect you to stop talking about loss and grief after a certain amount of time. It becomes a stigmatized dinner topic. This is why Iselin joined a group called The Dinner Party. (<http://thedinnerparty.org/>) Started in Los Angeles, the Dinner Party now has branches in cities across the

## Iselin Gambert, continued



country. Folks get together over dinner to talk about grief and life after loss. The group's motto is, "We know what it is to lose a loved one, and we are not afraid to talk about it." Iselin regularly hosts (vegan!) dinner parties at her home for a group of about a dozen people, most of them complete strangers before meeting at the first dinner nearly a year ago. Iselin appreciates that, with people coming back for multiple dinner parties, the conversation can be present- and forward-looking rather than constantly having to retell the story of a loved one's death. She also finds it refreshing that it's the only dinner party she has ever been to where "So, what do you do?" is never uttered by a single person. This past summer, WAMU (DC's local NPR radio station) aired a touching story about Iselin and The Dinner Party, available at: [http://wamu.org/programs/metro\\_connection/14/07/18/dinner\\_party\\_movement\\_offers\\_grieving\\_washingtonians\\_a\\_gather\\_place#at\\_pco=cfd-1.0](http://wamu.org/programs/metro_connection/14/07/18/dinner_party_movement_offers_grieving_washingtonians_a_gather_place#at_pco=cfd-1.0)

Iselin's mother was Zen Buddhist. She taught mindfulness and stress reduction classes for incarcerated women in Baltimore. Her mother's Zen Buddhism had a big impact on Iselin, and she has since channeled her mother's mindfulness in various ways. Iselin has coordinated programs for law students through GW's new Inns of Court Pro-

gram on mindfulness practice and professional life. Iselin thinks it is essential for students to understand the importance of wellness and mindfulness as they navigate the many competing demands of law school and the legal profession. Iselin is wise beyond her years. To turn the Gertrude Stein quote on its head, with Iselin, there is a there there.

Iselin is a bright young star of our community. She is actively promoting legal writing at her school (she is, for example, the Coordinator of the GW Law Writing Center) and in the larger legal writing academy. Yet, in the midst of this busy life, Iselin comes from a place of repose and reflection. Asked where she would go if she could take a week off with no emails, writing deadlines, class preparation or grading, she responds: "I would go to the cabin my grandfather built for our family deep in the Norwegian wilderness. It's perched right at the edge of the tree line, an hour's drive from the nearest village. There's no running water and in the winter you have to ski the last few kilometers with all your food and clothes on your back." Would that she would take me!

**Iselin Gambert:** [igambert@law.gwu.edu](mailto:igambert@law.gwu.edu)

Iselin's Family  
Cabin "Liatun"  
near Uvdal,  
Norway





**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 the profiles of:



**Michelle Falkoff**  
Northwestern



**Hugh Mundy**  
John Marshall

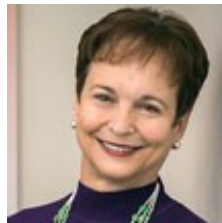


**Ryan Vogel**  
Chicago-Kent

## Committee Members



**Bob Brain, Co-Chair**  
Loyola, Los Angeles  
bob.brain@lls.edu



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



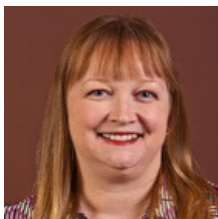
**Grace Hum, Co-Chair**  
Univ. San Francisco  
ghum@usfca.edu



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



**Olympia Duhart**  
Nova  
duhart@nsu.law.nova.edu



**Tamara Herrera**  
Arizona State  
tamara.herrera@asu.edu



**Greg Johnson**  
Vermont  
gjohnson@vermontlaw.edu



**Karin Mika**  
Cleveland-Marshall  
karin.mika@law.csuohio.edu



**Jennifer Romig**  
Emory  
jromig@emory.edu



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



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