



# THOMAS F. BLACKWELL MEMORIAL AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION



## WELCOME

*Katrina Lee*

President, Association of Legal Writing Directors  
Clinical Professor of Law  
The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

*Kimberly Y.W. Holst*

President, Legal Writing Institute  
Clinical Professor of Law  
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

## PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 THOMAS F. BLACKWELL MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENT

*Teri McMurtry-Chubb*

Professor of Law  
UIC John Marshall Law School

## CLOSING REMARKS AND VIRTUAL TOAST

Make sure to have your Velvet Hammer cocktails ready to toast Teri!





## THOMAS F. BLACKWELL MEMORIAL AWARD



The Thomas F. Blackwell Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Legal Writing is named for a legal writing professor who taught at the Appalachian School of Law. Professor Blackwell taught legal writing and was active in ALWD and LWI; the award is given jointly by both organizations.

The award recognizes a person who has made an outstanding contribution to improving the field of legal writing by demonstrating the ability to nurture and motivate students to excellence; a willingness to help other legal writing educators improve their teaching skills and legal writing programs; and an ability to create and integrate new ideas for teaching and motivating legal writing educators and students.

The first Blackwell Award was conferred in 2003 at the AALS annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. Tom's widow, Lisa Blackwell, presented the first award. Also in attendance were Tom and Lisa's three children, Zebadiah, Jillian, and Ezekiel. The Blackwell Award consists of a cash award of \$1,000, a plaque, and a desk lamp. Why a desk lamp? The lamp represents both the light Professor Blackwell shed on his students and colleagues and his penchant for light bulb jokes. A plaque, listing the winners, is also on display at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia. Further information about the award and its past winners is available on the ALWD website ([www.alwd.org](http://www.alwd.org)) and the LWI website ([www.lwionline.org](http://www.lwionline.org)).





# THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL THOMAS F. BLACKWELL MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENT

## Teri McMurtry-Chubb



Teri McMurtry-Chubb is a Professor of Law at UIC John Marshall Law School. She researches, teaches, and writes in the areas of critical rhetoric, discourse and genre analysis, and legal history. McMurtry-Chubb is a leader in designing curricula to facilitate diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

Prior to returning to academia, Professor McMurtry-Chubb was a Civil Litigation Associate at a mid-sized law firm in Des Moines, IA. At the time she joined the firm, she was the first person of color ever to be hired there and one of two African American women in the entire state of Iowa in private practice. She practiced in the areas of insurance defense, employment discrimination, and employee benefits involving the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Before entering private practice, McMurtry-Chubb became the first Black woman hired as a law clerk for the 5th Judicial District of Iowa.

Professor McMurtry-Chubb served as President of the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) 2015-2016, becoming the first person of color and first Black woman to ever head a national legal writing organization. She is the author of over 25 publications, including the books Legal Writing in the Disciplines: A Guide to Legal Writing Mastery (Carolina Academic Press 2012), the forthcoming Race Unequals: Overseer Contracts, White Masculinities, and the Formation of Managerial Identity in the Plantation Economy (Lexington Books 2021), and is a contributor to Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Opinions of the United States Supreme Court (Cambridge University Press 2016). In 2019, Teri was awarded the 2018 Teresa Godwin Phelps Award for Scholarship in Legal Communication for her article *The Rhetoric of Race, Redemption, and Will Contests: Inheritance as Reparations in John Grisham's Sycamore Row*, 48 Univ. Memphis L. Rev. 890 (2018). She is the recipient of the 2021 Thomas F. Blackwell Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Legal Writing – the first person of color and first Black woman to achieve this honor.



## PREVIOUS BLACKWELL AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2020**    **BRAD CLARY**  
University of Minnesota Law School
- 2019**    **TERRILL “TERRY” POLLMAN**  
University of Nevada–Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law
- 2018**    **IAN GALLACHER**  
Syracuse University College of Law
- 2017**    **MELISSA H. WERESH**  
Drake University
- 2016**    **COLEEN MILLER BARGER**  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law
- 2015**    **HELENE SHAPO**  
Northwestern University
- 2014**    **JAN LEVINE**  
Duquesne University School of Law
- 2013**    **JUDY STINSON**  
Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law
- 2012**    **SUZANNE E. ROWE**  
University of Oregon School of Law
- 2011**    **CAROL MCCREHAN PARKER**  
University of Tennessee College of Law
- 2010**    **STEVE JOHANSEN**  
Lewis & Clark Law School
- 2009**    **LINDA H. EDWARDS**  
University of Nevada–Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law
- 2008**    **DIANA V. PRATT**  
Wayne State University School of Law
- 2007**    **LOUIS J. SIRICO, Jr.**  
Villanova University School of Law
- 2006**    **MARY BETH BEAZLEY**  
The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law
- 2005**    **RALPH BRILL**  
Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law
- 2004**    **PAMELA V. LYSAGHT**  
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
- 2003**    **RICHARD K. NEUMANN, Jr.**  
Hofstra University School of Law

\*\*Many thanks go to the members of the Blackwell Award Reception Committee for their planning and work on this celebration: **Heather Baxter**, Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law; **Paige Carlos**, University of Florida, Levin College of Law; **Irina Gott**, Roger Williams University School of Law; **Laura P. Graham**, Wake Forest University School of Law; **Greg Johnson**, Vermont Law School; and **Sylvia J. Lett**, University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law. And a **very special thanks** to **Emily Potts**, Multimedia Production Manager, Vermont Law School, for producing the tribute video.\*\*