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

Mary Adkins: Author & Historian



By Janis Kirkland

Mary Adkins is the Director of Legal Writing and Appellate Advocacy at University of Florida’s Levin College of Law. Designated a Master Skills Professor, Mary is a writing professor who truly displays a love for her craft, although she emphasizes that she enjoys writing what she wants to write about rather than traditional legal scholarship. Most of the

For more about Mary, see page 2.

Abby Perdue: Blending Wanderlust, Faith, Family & Small-Town Values



By Iselin Gambert

Abigail (Abby) Perdue grew up on Spring Branch Road, but everyone called it a “holler.” Her grandparents—Mamaw Mary and Papaw Hoover Asbury—lived right down the street, and her great-aunt Maggie Lee was right across the road, ready with pink lemonade and a snack whenever Abby stopped by. “I think it’s a really unusual way to grow up

For more about Abby, see page 4.

Sarah Ricks: Bringing Legal Practice into the Classroom



By Byron Wardlaw

Sarah Ricks seems unafraid to create something new or do something new. “Not unafraid,” she says, “but I ask my students to go outside their comfort zones, and I try to do the same.” “Courting discomfort” has propelled her through changes in her own life as a lawyer, allowed her to innovate in the classroom, and sent her traveling around the world.

For more about Sarah, see page 9.

Mary Adkins



Mary, fishing in the Bahamas.
She caught a bonefish!

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topics that interest Mary appear to have a link to Florida history. Mary's interest in Florida's history led initially to a book about Florida's 1968 constitutional revision, which in turn led to a new phase of her career in which she is active on the lecture circuit and has several new books underway. Finally, Mary's personal lifestyle also reflects her interest in Florida history.

Writing the First Book

In 2016, Mary published a book about the history of the 1968 constitutional revision in Florida, *Making Modern Florida: How the Spirit of Reform Shaped a New Constitution*. She had always been interested in Florida politics. While reading about Florida politics, Mary noted numerous references to the development of Florida's new constitution in 1968 but no mention of why it had been written. What began as a personal quest for information about this mystery transformed into an interest in writing an article. Eventually, however, the project outgrew article size to become a book.

Mary quickly realized that Florida had changed drastically since its earlier constitution had been adopted in 1885. Florida had changed from a rural state with most of the population in the northern part of the state close to the Alabama and Georgia borders to a major tourist destination with large cities in the south. The 1960s, when the Constitution was rewritten, was a time of additional significant transformations: Florida had recently been reapportioned to correct gerrymandering, supplying greater power to urban areas; Disney was on the brink of purchasing land and developing central Florida; and the space program, with its Florida activities, was near its inception.

Mary noted that Florida desperately needed the 1968 constitutional revision. Although the state had changed tremendously since the prior constitution had been implemented, the former constitution contained no provision for making major changes other than by the legislature, which was composed of folks Mary described as more interested in maintaining their power than in developing a constitution that would serve the Florida populous. As a result, the new constitution was developed by a Constitutional Revision Commission composed of 36 men and 1 woman.

A key attribute of the revised constitution is that it contemplates the need for future changes and contains a provision to enable those changes to be made more easily than in the past. The new constitution contains a provision requiring appointment of a new revision commission to recommend needed updates on a periodic basis. Proposals from the constitutional revision commission are placed on the ballot automatically and can be implemented with approval of 60% of the voters.

In some ways, Mary was the ideal person to undertake this book, but even so, she found a need to expand her educational preparation. University of Florida, where Mary is on the law faculty, has a robust oral history program, which allowed her to tap into a vault of digitized historical interviews about the state's history. However, she was so invested in making sure the research was done appropriately that, while preparing the book, Mary obtained a master's in history, supplying her with the expertise to make sure the research was done properly.

Of the 37 individuals on the 1965 Constitutional Revision Commission, Mary learned that 8 were still alive as she

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Mary Adkins

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was researching her book. She was able to interview those individuals, learning how events of the times shaped the revised constitution. As might be expected, those individuals with enough stature to be a part of the Revision Commission in 1965 were quite old by the time Mary was researching the revision, which was earlier this decade. She became jokingly known as the “Black Widow,” because several of the aged individuals she interviewed for her book died prior to its publication. However, Mary relayed how much fun it had been to have the opportunity to pick the brains of these august people.

New Career Opportunities

Mary’s publication of *Making Modern Florida* triggered an entirely new phase of her career, as Mary now finds herself on the lecture circuit. She has participated in panel discussions about the constitution at University of Florida and Florida State. She also gets requests to speak before various groups that focus on Florida’s history. Mary finds these events and the associated travel to be fun and stimulating.

Also, she’s discovered a genuine love for writing and currently has numerous other writing projects underway. Mary is helping a retired Florida Supreme Court justice publish his autobiography and already has prepared a draft of that work. She’s also working on a biography of the late Chesterfield Smith, a renowned Florida lawyer who served as president of the American Bar Association during the Watergate scandal and who popularized the line “no man is above the law.”

Mary wants to write a sequel to *Making Modern Florida*, to describe the last 50 years of Florida constitutional history. She notes that this project is timely because it is once again time for a constitutional revision commission.

Finally, Mary is co-authoring yet another book with a former colleague, focusing on Florida cases that went to the U.S. Supreme Court and ultimately changed the fabric of American society. As an example, *Gideon v. Wainwright* was a case

that arose from a burglary in Florida and changed the fabric of criminal procedure. In this book, Mary and her co-author will supply the interesting background stories associated with these cases.

Given the many comments Mary has made about Florida politics, one might wonder if she envisions launching a political career. Although Mary admitted she had considered politics at one point, she appears to be an educator at heart; she is more interested in informing others about the issues with her writing projects and related speaking engagements.

Living the History

A Florida native, Mary Adkins also lives in a portion of Florida history. She lives in an historical Florida cottage, which once was located amongst orange groves in northern Florida. Although the orange groves are now gone, other than a few trees planted to maintain the ambience, the cottage has been preserved largely in the condition it was in the early 1900s, meaning that it has neither heat nor air conditioning. Mary reports that except for a few weeks each year, it is surprisingly comfortable, a testimony to the tremendous difference in today’s construction and that of long ago.

If you’d like to get in touch with Mary Adkins, you can email her at adkinsm@law.ufl.edu.



Mary’s cottage, built in the early 1900s

Abby Perdue

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now,” reflects Abby. “It was a wonderful happy childhood to have so much family around, to see my Mamaw and Papaw every day.”

“It was coal mining country,” Abby said of her hometown of Wayne, West Virginia, explaining that it was common there to grow up surrounded by extended family. “That was the culture. My Papaw was one of 14 or 15 kids—he was the baby—and all of his siblings and their children and their children were all still living there.” Abby’s parents, David and Janet Perdue, also grew up near Wayne and even went to the same high school, though they didn’t meet until several years after they’d both graduated, and her mom was working as a teacher where they’d both gone to school. “Both of them knew on the first date that they were going to get married,” Abby said. They got engaged three months later and have been happily married for 42 years.

Abby spent a lot of time outdoors and with animals as a child; her house was surrounded by forest, and her closest friends were the cats and dogs who lived with her. Her best friend until she started elementary school was her black and white springer spaniel, Mandy. “She tended to me like Nana watched over the Darlings in Peter Pan,” says Abby. “I was always around animals,” she explained. “I spent more time with pets than other kids because there were no other kids my age that lived in the neighborhood.”

Abby’s love for animals aligned with her childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian. “I used to play animal hospital,” she explained. “My mom got me a medical kit with scrubs and x-rays. I would put burn cream from the kit on some of my stuffed animals and bandaged them. I remember destroying one of my older sister’s favorite dolls by putting burn cream on its skin that discolored it.” Abby attended the public high school in her town – the same high school her parents and sister had attended and where her mother and Grandmother Perdue had once taught.

Even though Abby loved growing up in Wayne, she knew from a young age that she “wanted to travel, see the world, go away to college.” Her dad was a big part of that inspiration: After high school, he left Wayne to get degrees from Purdue University and Harvard Business School. The son of a mailman and high school teacher, Abby’s dad had no connections in the big cities—just intelligence and a strong work ethic. He worked to put himself through school and lived in New York, Boston, and Chicago—cities he and Abby’s mom took her and her sister, Rachel, to visit on vacations as a child. “Growing up I heard his stories about college and business school, living in other cities.” Ultimately, her dad



Mamaw Mary and Papaw Hoover Asbury

moved back to Wayne where he met his wife and started a family, but the inspiration of his years of traveling and the attitude he took with him made a lasting impression on Abby. “It’s about loving where you’re from and taking it with you wherever you go and sharing it with other people,” she says.

At 18, Abby left West Virginia to study at Washington & Lee University, an experience she calls “an educational Disneyland.” “It was a wonderful, happy place,” Abby says. “I experienced tremendous personal and academic growth there.” Her professors were “so accessible, so brilliant, so rigorous . . . they cared so much about you that you wanted to give them 100% because you didn’t want to disrespect them and disappoint them.” The classroom atmosphere was one of “ruling by love,” Abby explains, describing college as a deeply formative experience. “That’s where the whole trajectory of my life changed,” she said. “My professors showed me all the promise and potential that I had and convinced me that I could achieve anything.” Abby told me that she tries to emulate her Washington & Lee professors in her own teaching at Wake Forest and that she currently volunteers as an admissions interviewer for Washington & Lee, a role she loves for giving her the opportunity to give back to the school that gave her so much.

At Washington & Lee, Abby majored in biology, planning on

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Abby Perdue

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a career in pediatric or veterinary medicine. But she discovered during her first year that she “loved the science but not the labs that accompanied the science.” She dreaded the dissections and other practical aspects of her bio courses, so she sought out advice from her professors and at the same time expanded her coursework to include classes in Hinduism, English, sociology, playwrighting, and the humanities. The next year, she even picked up a second major in English. In her junior year, after many discussions with her professor-mentors and family members, she began thinking about the possibility of going to law school.

“I went to law school with an interest in law teaching,” Abby explained. “I grew up around teachers,” she said, noting that most of the role models who surrounded her as a child, including her mother and both of her grandmothers, were teachers. Abby spent a lot of time tutoring and mentoring during her time in college, and she felt drawn to a career in education. “I asked my mentors if I should become an English or bio professor—and they said I could become a law professor. Sometimes,” she reflected, “you need someone else outside to look at you and give you a different perspective of yourself.”

After graduating *summa cum laude* from Washington & Lee, Abby enrolled at the University of Virginia School of Law. With her interest in science, she initially thought she’d focus her coursework in healthcare law, but she found the subject matter boring. She eventually discovered “there’s a nexus between science and law in every practice area” and found herself pulled toward employment discrimination law, a field where knowledge in areas like genetics and genetic privacy would come in handy. “It all

leads back to discrimination in society,” Abby explains of her interest in employment discrimination. The field “was a perfect nexus of all my interests,” including hard science and sociology, “and my college experiences enriched it.”

After graduating from law school, Abby set out on a new adventure: working as a big-firm lawyer at Proskauer Rose LLP in the heart of New York City. “I wanted to live in a big city once in my life,” she explained.” But New York had

a bit of West Virginia in it, too: Abby’s sister had married a New Yorker and at the time was living just north of the city in White Plains. “It was different,” says Abby of life in New York, “but I really loved it. I’m a pretty adaptable person. A college friend once said you could drop me in a snake pit and I would have fun. I get along with almost everyone.”

Abby chose Proskauer “because it was a top labor and employment firm in NYC,” explains Abby. “I loved it. The cases were so interesting. My colleagues were the brightest attorneys in the country, and I wanted to learn from the best.” She

worked hard but made a point to get out of the office “to really experience New York.” She went to ballets and the opera at Lincoln Center, musicals on Broadway, and even the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, which traveled right by her apartment. “I wanted to immerse myself in New York,” explained Abby. “I didn’t think I’d be there forever, and I didn’t want to have regrets about leaving anything undone.”

After practicing for a few years, Abby found herself at a crossroads. “I was about to fly home for Christmas from NYC to surprise my Mamaw and Papaw, but in the cab ride to the airport, I found out that my Mamaw had died unexpectedly the night before.” Abby was devastated. She



Abby & her mom, Janet Lynn

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Abby Perdue

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could have gone home that Thanksgiving but stayed behind in New York for work. It was the first family Thanksgiving she'd ever missed. She saw this as a defining moment: "This path is going to lead me to partnership, prestige, and all these things," she reflected, "but I don't want it if it means these kinds of sacrifices."

Abby thought about her father and the choice he made to leave a successful career in big cities to move back to Wayne, West Virginia. "He was bright and could do anything and go anywhere, but he had a strong sense of family and who he is. He didn't care about what the world would think about his choices. He instilled that in my sister and me, and I see that in my own choices, too." She explains, "People may ask, why would you turn down that school or that job—but it's what's best for me and my definition of success – a definition that may differ for other people."

Less than a year after her Mamaw passed away, Abby had quit her firm job, left New York, and was living in the small town of Lexington, Virginia, developing courses and teaching at Washington & Lee. "I haven't missed any Thanksgivings or Christmases since," she said.

After a year of teaching at Washington & Lee, Abby completed two federal clerkships in Washington, D.C. But that



Abby with her nephews, Heath (8) & Wyatt (5)

year in the classroom affirmed for Abby that she wanted to become a teacher. "I was creating new courses, writing articles, and was fully immersed in academic life. But I felt like I was on vacation, like I was unemployed, because I loved it so much." After her clerkships, Abby "put [her] hat in the ring" at the AALS law professor hiring fair, casting a wide net regarding the courses and fields she was open to teaching. She had several opportunities to teach in various doctrinal areas at different schools, but "fell in love with Wake [Forest] and their LRW program." Wake Forest "was my first callback, and it stayed with me. When I imagined myself [in the future], I saw myself there."

For Abby, being a legal writing professor allows her to merge all of her passions: "I love writing. I love teaching writing. I love the *process* [of exploring] how to communicate big ideas in an accessible way. It connects to everything, no matter what I do." She designs modules in her LRW classes that are about employment discrimination issues like appearance policies, sexual harassment, and other issues that "bring to bear my interests and my scholarship; everything speaks to everything else. That's been really enjoyable to me. It's really fun."

Abby is a prolific author, with two books, a book chapter, and over half a dozen law review articles under her belt and more of each on the way. She also has a number of blog posts and mainstream media articles. Last year she launched TeachLawBetter.com, a website devoted to "celebrating experiments in pedagogy and facilitating the free exchange of innovative teaching ideas."

When I ask Abby how she finds the time to do all this writing with a full-time LRW teaching load, she pauses for a moment to reflect. "One secret is finding a synergy between scholarship, teaching, and service, so everything informs everything else. When you prepare for class, it makes your article stronger. When you write your article, it makes your classes better. Weave service in as well, and it all comes full circle. You can do twice as much in half the time." She also admits that, "I don't want to say I'm a workaholic, but I can't sit still. If I don't have plans, I'll be working. That's a character flaw for me—I'm just a worker."

When I ask her how she decides what to write about—she has published in the areas of legal writing and pedagogy, animal law, employment discrimination, health law, gender and race discrimination and beyond—she says, "I write about what interests me. I've never been a scholar who made strategic choices based on placement in a top 10 journal. My motivation is sincere: that I am really interested in

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Abby Perdue

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the topic.” Abby keeps an “idea bank”—a list of questions she emails to herself that arise from class discussions, things she reads, conversations she has. “I see ideas everywhere. When I finish one project, I can look at my list of ideas and go on to the next one.”

In January of this year, Abby was promoted to the position of Professor of Legal Writing with tenure. When I asked what receiving tenure meant to her, she had this to say: “It’s an honor and privilege mainly because it represents affirmation from my colleagues that I make a meaningful contribution, which they recognize, value, and respect. I hope more institutions will adopt flexible tenure models that better acknowledge and reward the diverse, but equally important, contributions and responsibilities of all faculty.”

For Abby, despite all her professional accomplishments, life is about so much more than her career. “My faith is a huge part of my life,” she explains. “I don’t consider myself religious, but I do consider myself a person of faith, and I do consider that to be different. My faith is a guiding force, it shapes everything I do. . . . It informs my teaching, my relationships; it sustains me through difficult times.” Abby explains that to her, “faith is what’s in the heart.” It’s about “treating people how you want to be treated,” which includes being “more generous, more loving.”

Abby’s biggest hobby is travel. “My bucket list is so long,” she laughs. She got a “bit of a late start on travel,” taking her first trip in an airplane the summer after her junior year of college when she set off to study abroad at Oxford University, but she has more than made up for lost time. “I was overtaken with wanderlust and haven’t stopped traveling since,” she explained. “I’ve been to 24 countries and a whole lot of states.” Abby is also a big fan of solo travel. “I find myself when I travel,” she explains, “and that’s one reason I really enjoy, perhaps prefer, traveling solo, which allows for a kind of introspection and self-exploration that are just as transformative as the adventure itself.”

Abby’s “most transformative adventure” was a solo trip to Portugal and Croatia a few years ago. She described Portugal and Croatia as “the most beautiful places I’ve ever visited.” She loves being on the water and plans travel that allows for her to be “on boats, beaches, whitewater rafting, kayaking, jet skiing”—anything that gets her onto the water. Some of her favorite experiences have been “zip lining through the cloud forest in Costa Rica, swimming with special needs sea lions in Oahu, parasailing and snorkeling with sharks in Belize, island-hopping through Greece, and trying every flavor of gelato in Italy.” But an experience she had in Croatia stands out to her: “There were moments when I was swimming in the turquoise waters off the coast staring at majestic mountains on one side and gorgeous beaches on the other that it felt surreal, like I’d stumbled into a dream. I still remember those moments of disbeliefing joy and that experience awoke/revived/restored something broken or lost in my soul.”

At the time I was writing this profile, Abby was already off on her next big adventure: a solo “tiki” through the North and South islands of New Zealand. “I’m terrified and elated all at once,” she admitted the week before her trip, “which is how I usually feel before big adventures. Confession: I absolutely hate to fly; otherwise, I’d probably travel much more!” When she returned, she explained that while in New Zealand, she had skydived over Lake Taupo, paraglided over Queenstown,



Exploring Dubrovnik, Croatia

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Abby Perdue



Exploring Portugal

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gone jetboating down the Shotover River, enjoyed blackwater rafting through the famous Waitomo glowworm caves, explored The Shire, and parasailed over the Bay of Islands among other things.

When I ask Abby if she thinks her wanderlust may lead to her seeking opportunities to live abroad longer-term, she pauses for a moment to reflect. “I love being in different countries, but I think I’d be called home,” she says, explaining that she wouldn’t want to be far from her nephews Heath (8) and Wyatt (5), whom she adores. She recounted that one of her “proudest/happiest moments recently” was “when my little nephew Wyatt got to pick one person or thing to put on the prayer tree at his school, and he chose me!”

When I ask Abby what defines her, she is clear: faith; family; her four-legged companion (and “most important Teaching Assistant”) Violet Sofia, a five-year-old black cocker spaniel; friends; wanderlust; and the connections she makes with her students. “Those things really are my life,” she explains, describing herself an “explorer, proud auntie, and puppy mama who is blessed beyond measure.”

For Abby, what matters most is “being a person of integrity, living a meaningful life, and being happy. That when you lay your head on your pillow each night, you feel content and that you’ve made a positive contribution.” That definition of success, she lamented, is “not often recognized by our soci-

ety.” As for her beloved Mamaw, her memory, spirit, and inspiration remain a guiding force as Abby moves through life. “She had passed away before I became a teacher, but she would be so proud of me. Life is short. There are no guarantees about what’s coming. Don’t postpone your dreams.”

If you’d like to be in touch with Abby, you can contact her at perduea@wfu.edu.

Abby’s Favorites

Favorite Book: *Pride & Prejudice*

Most Provocative Book I’ve Read Recently: *Spinster: Making a Life of One’s Own*

Favorite music: Coldplay, Tenth Avenue North, Imagine Dragons

Favorite quotes:

“I have found that when I love until it hurts, there is no hurt, only more love.” – Mother Theresa

“For the Lord sees not as man sees: Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” – 1 Samuel 16:7

“Not all who wander are lost.” – Tolkien

Role Models: Jesus, Mamaw, Mom, and the judges I clerked for: Jimmie V. Reyna and Mary Ellen Coster Williams

If I couldn’t be a law professor: I’d like to be a travel writer/blogger/ reviewer and bring all the beauty and mystery of strange and exotic parts of the world to people who can’t explore it for themselves. Alternatively, I’d do something where I worked with animals like working at a no-kill animal shelter or an elephant sanctuary.



Sarah Ricks

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One of her earliest innovations in her legal career came while she was still in law school. Thirty years ago, while a student at Yale Law School, Sarah co-founded the *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism*. Still in publication, the *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism* remains a forum to address women's experiences with the law, experiences which are often ignored.

Immediately after law school, Sarah clerked for a federal trial judge in Philadelphia, the Honorable Thomas N. O'Neill, Jr. (recently deceased). After clerking for Judge O'Neill, Sarah joined Pepper Hamilton LLP, a large law firm where she drafted two Third Circuit briefs—one representing inmates in a prison overcrowding suit. At that point, Sarah realized that she loved civil rights law and writing appellate briefs.

Soon, she left Pepper Hamilton to do appellate work and draft legislation for the City of Philadelphia Law Department. There, she authored briefs addressing federal Constitutional claim and on briefs addressing state issues such as Philadelphia's attempt to regulate assault weapons and Philadelphia's challenge to the Pennsylvania system of funding public education. She presented arguments on behalf of the City of Philadelphia in both federal and state court.



While working on Philadelphia's several school funding lawsuits was professionally rewarding, it took a personal toll. During the litigation, for example, Sarah sometimes saw her daughter only while the toddler was asleep.

After seven years with the Philadelphia Law Department, Sarah was ready for a different challenge. Thus, in 2001 she became a legal writing professor at Rutgers Law School. As a professor, Sarah's focus is on the constitutional and statutory doctrines necessary to litigate the most common Constitutional claims, namely claims under the Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments. Professor Ricks states the facts are often tragic, involving police misuse of force, prison violence and prison health care, and child abuse. All generally involve a fascinating interplay of judicial power, legislative response, executive implementation, and public reaction by commentators and non-profits.

As a legal writing professor, Sarah enjoys preparing her students for practice and helping them to avoid the many mistakes she made. Her *Current Issues in Civil Rights Litigation* class integrates the teaching of doctrine and skills. Students learn a doctrine while also learning how lawyers might apply that doctrine in a realistic practice situation. Professor Ricks's textbook, *Current Issues in Constitutional*

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Sarah and her husband, Tom Dolgenos, hiking in Montenegro

Sarah Ricks



LegalWriting
INSTITUTE



Sarah, in the classroom, moments before she learned she would receive the Rutgers-Camden Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

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Litigation: A Context and Practice Casebook (Carolina Academic Press, 2d Ed. 2015), is the textbook she wishes she had while in law school. Every chapter places students in roles as practitioners handling realistic situations, such as a jury-charge conference or a settlement negotiation before a mediator. And the textbook goes beyond compiling cases. To expose students to documents they will encounter in practice, the book draws on model jury instructions, settlement agreements, appellate briefs, and reports by non-profits. To help students grasp the difficult choices that must be made by those on the front lines, the text also includes factual background about the work of prison guards, police officers, and social workers. Sarah is currently working on the third edition.

One thing Professor Ricks particularly appreciates about the Rutgers faculty is that the legal writing, clinical, and pro bono programs work in concert; they all cooperate to help make students more "practice-ready." Since 2003, the Dean of Pro Bono Service and Sarah have co-directed the Pro Bono Research Project. For that project, upper-level students conduct free legal research for non-profits, government, or private attorneys working on pro bono projects. In addition, in 2009, Professor Ricks created a hybrid clinic/writing course based on the same model. Recognizing her accomplishments as both a teacher and scholar, in 2017, Rutgers named Sarah a Distinguished Clinical Professor of Law.

In addition to serving as a legal writing professor at Rutgers Law School, Sarah also serves as a Commissioner for the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations. Professor Ricks was appointed by the mayor of Philadelphia over 10 years ago, and reappointed by the City's new mayor.

The Commission is Philadelphia's antidiscrimination agency and does fascinating work. For example, the Commission participated in revising the City's antidiscrimination law to expand its protections. In addition, the Commission held a public hearing on race discrimination in the LGBTQ community of Philadelphia and issued a report requiring, among other remedies, implicit bias training for non-profits and other businesses in the Philadelphia area.

Asked for advice for other legal writing professionals, she shared two thoughts: Her first observation was about the importance of professional organizations such as the Legal Writing Institute. For example, through LWI she has discovered colleagues who share her interest in bringing real legal work into the classroom; colleagues who encourage cooperation between clinics, pro bono, and legal writing faculty; and colleagues who also work to integrate doctrine and skills in their classrooms. Her second comment was this advice: "Write what you love." As Sarah explained, "You've got to live with the topic for a long time, so to get you through the research, the writing, and editing process, you have to care about your topic."

Finally, when she can, Sarah enjoys cooking for family and friends, traveling, and getting to know foreign cultures. For example, in spring 2018, the International Sites of Conscience introduced Sarah to civil rights museum staff across U.S. southern states, and she spent three weeks of her sabbatical visiting those locations. During the same sabbatical, she visited apartheid museums in South Africa. And just for fun, her recent favorite destinations were Croatia and Montenegro.

If you'd like to get in touch with Sarah Ricks, you can contact her at sricks@camden.rutgers.edu.

**UPCOMING
LEGAL WRITING
EVENTS**

June 18-20, 2018
Exploring the Use of
Technology in the Law
School Classroom
Institute for Law
Teaching & Learning
Gonzaga University

July 11-14, 2018
18th Biennial
LWI Conference
Marquette University

September 28-29, 2018
Western Regional
Legal Writing Conference
UC Irvine

Check out these websites for more
information on what's happening!

<http://www.aals.org/aals-events/>
<http://www.lwionline.org/>
<http://www.alwd.org/>

The **Faces of LWI** Committee exists to allow us to learn about the interesting lives of our colleagues. If you know of someone who we should interview, please email any committee member. Please include a short note explaining why you think the individual should be profiled.

Selection and Presentation Process: We believe it is important for LWI members to know our process for creating the newsletter. The Committee is organized into three teams, and each team is responsible for 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 keep a master list of all the profiles, so that we can ensure a wide range of coverage over time. If you think WI Lives should feature a particular LWI member, please share your idea with one of the committee members.



**Happy
summer break!**

Faces of LWI Committee Members



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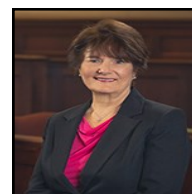
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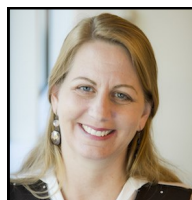
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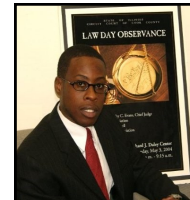
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