



LWI LIVES

Page 1

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Inside this issue:

Kim Holst 1-3
Arizona State University School of Law

Chris Soper 1, 4-5
University of Minnesota School of Law

Daniel Tully 1, 6-7
Suffolk Law School

Statement of Selection and Presentation Process 8

Upcoming Legal Writing Events 8

LWI Lives Committee 8

Contributors to this Edition:

Elizabeth Berenguer
Grace Hum
Tracy L. Norton
Rebecca Rich

Feel free to reach out to any one of us if you have questions about this edition.

LWI Lives is a regular electronic publication of the “Faces of LWI” Committee, which explores and communicates the emerging identity of LWI and its members. We have in common the commitment to being the best legal writing professors that 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 and develop our understanding of who we are and what we aspire to be.

Kim Holst: Triple Threat



By Tracy L. Norton

Approaching Kim Holst for this profile and talking to her was effortless. She has an easy, approachable manner that many law professors struggle to acquire. Kim is one of those people who is just “all there.” She doesn’t have a stuffy professional persona that hides the more casual personal one. She is at once professional and personal, smart and warm in equal parts.

For more about Kim, see page 2.

Chris Soper: From Big Red to Gopher Gold (with some blue sea and bankruptcy in between)



By Rebecca Rich

Christopher Soper didn’t really want to be a lawyer as a kid growing up in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Like many boys his age, he had dreams of the N.B.A. And when he finally got a bit more realistic, he decided he could settle for anything jet-setting, basketball-related, and fun.

For more about Chris, see page 4.

Danielle Tully: Seeking Social Justice



By Elizabeth Berenguer

Meet Danielle Tully, one of our colleagues at Suffolk Law School. I had the pleasure of meeting her personally at the ALWD Biennial Conference in Minneapolis this past summer. She’s a dynamic individual who exudes joy and genuine curiosity about the world around her. Not only that, but she has lived all over the globe and has engaged in some outside-the-box professions, all of which give her a unique perspective and approach to teaching.

For more about Danielle, see page 6.

Kim Holst, continued



Kim presenting at the Rocky Mountain Conference in 2016

While she described her experience as a IL in Alice Silkey's legal writing class at Hamline University School of Law, I could imagine being a IL in Kim's class and beginning to love legal writing the way that she did as a new law student.

Kim grew up in rural Minnesota, the daughter of a farmer father and Korean immigrant mother. The first in her family to go to college, she aspired to be a lawyer when she majored in Political Science at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. But the pace of finishing her degree in three years left her in need of a change of pace from school. She took a job in retail banking that inspired her to apply to law school after two years.

In her first year at Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, being in Alice Silkey's legal writing course inspired her to consider a career in legal education. Like many of us who were first-in-family for college and law school, Kim didn't have the inside track on how to become a law professor until she had already made decisions off the beaten path. But she learned that a Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) was another track that could lead to some form of teaching in a law school. She earned her MLIS one year after graduating

from law school. Once again, though, years of sustained academic intensity left her ready for a change. She practiced law for two years, finding that she loved legal writing in practice as much as she had in law school. After two years of that, though, she was ready for school again, this time on the other side of the podium.

She taught as an adjunct at University of Minnesota School of Law and then landed a full-time teaching job at her alma mater, Hamline. After three years at Hamline, Kim knew she had found her place as a law professor. She was eager to develop further and widen her perspective, so she took a faculty position at Arizona State University School of Law, where she is in her eighth year of teaching on their faculty.

At Arizona State, Kim enjoys a culture that supports her work as a teacher and scholar in the field of legal writing. She brings to academic life her perspective as the daughter of an immigrant and the first-in-family to go to college, taking no opportunity for granted. Having experienced higher education as an "outsider" and now as an "insider," she is uniquely positioned to relate to students making the tough transition to a new academic and professional culture. I felt Kim's warmth and under-

Kim Holst, conclusion



standing as she talked about what keeps her motivated and inspired in academia. She shares the new students' excitement when they enter law school, and she revels in their development throughout their time at ASU and beyond.

As a faculty member who took a non-traditional path into the academy, Kim brings a fresh voice to her faculty. This is the voice of the immigrant, of the outsider, of the less affluent. Her voice is also the voice of a woman in a still male-dominated profession and of a mother concerned about the rights her three young daughters enjoy as they grow up and start their own lives. Kim brings the diversity of the United States into the Ivory Tower. And as much as her meaningful scholarship and skilled teaching, it is Kim's presence in the academy that enriches it.

Because talking to Kim was so easy, I felt brave enough to ask her if she would participate in one of my favorite celebrity interviewing exercises: the Bernard Pivot questionnaire that James Lipton made ubiquitous on *Inside the Actor's Studio*. Of course, she agreed. Take it away, Kim.

What is your favorite word? *Hope*

What is your least favorite word? *Irregardless*

What turns you on creatively, spiritually, or emotionally? *Humor*

What turns you off? *Condescension*

What is your favorite guilty pleasure? *Watching an excessive amount of television*

What sound or noise do you love? *The sound of tap shoes on a stage*

What sound or noise do you hate? *Any kind of persistent beeping*

What profession other than your own would you like to attempt? *Fiction author*

What profession would you not like to do? *Anything purely sales driven*

If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates? *"Your friends and family are waiting for you."*

You can reach Kim at kimberly.holst@asu.edu.



Kim with her three daughters



Kim, the triathlete

LegalWriting
institute

Chris Soper, continued



Swimming with the fish in Palau



Greta, Megan, and Emeline

Two out of three ain't bad! Over a decade after graduating from Cornell with a J.D., and after a varied legal career, Chris finds great satisfaction in his current role as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Law and the Director of Legal Writing at the University of Minnesota Law School. Chris coordinates and supervises the legal writing and moot court programs and teaches and writes in both legal writing and bankruptcy law. (And he plays in the student-faculty basketball game every year.)

Much of Chris' education had an international focus. As an undergraduate French major and history minor at Tufts University, Chris spent an academic year studying in Paris. Chris studied abroad again during law school, in both Paris and Cape Town, South Africa. And after clerking for a year for the Honorable James B. Loken on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, he moved to the Republic of Palau to clerk for its Supreme Court for a year.

Chris lived near a beach resort during his time in Palau, and when he wasn't working, he enjoyed scuba diving, hashing (it's not what you think; it's like a chase through thick jungle), and playing on the local basketball team. His favorite beachside cocktail was the Shark Attack.

After a year of island life, Chris returned to the U.S. and worked at the U.S. Sentencing Commission before moving to Chicago in 2010 to join the bankruptcy practice at Dentons U.S. LLP. He continues to practice with Dentons in an of counsel role. His bankruptcy practice, teaching, and scholarship help him stay connected with the practicing bar and build on his bankruptcy expertise, particularly in international corporate reorganization and unknown future claims in bankruptcy.

Chris loved his own law school experience at Cornell and thought that he might like to teach someday. His own first-year legal writing professor, Joel Atlas, planted the legal writing seed in Chris, even though his first semester legal writing grade was one of his worst in law school. But he came back for more, and took Joel's Appellate Advocacy class as a 3L.

Now, during Minnesota's IL orientation, Chris likes to show the matriculating students a contrast that many of us can appreciate—on the one hand, one of his final papers from an undergrad jazz history class, on Charles Mingus' Fables of Faubus, with almost no comments and an unexplained grade of A-; on the other, one of his first legal writing assignments with no grade but heavily marked up by Joel and a student instructor, with comments on every page, in addition to detailed global feedback at the end.

Chris Soper, conclusion

Chris' teaching career began with an adjunct legal writing position at Minnesota, where he moved in 2012. Chris draws some inspiration for teaching law students from his experience coaching junior varsity high school girls' basketball in Aspen, Colorado during a year off between college and law school. Some players on the team excelled, and would often be poached by the varsity team. Some were okay, and working hard to improve. Others didn't want to be there, and it showed in their attitude and performance. Mentoring, inspiring, and teaching across that broad spectrum of interest and ability mirrors what Chris does now in teaching law students. (Of course, what brought Chris to Aspen was the skiing. In addition to coaching, he worked in a snowboard shop. And there was a chair lift right off the back of the school.)

The collaborative nature of teaching legal writing appeals to Chris. He enjoys feeling like he's a part of a team in the classroom, working together with students to achieve a joint understanding of the best ways to write a particular assignment. Chris also thrives on the one-on-one relationships that he forms with students via comments on written work and conferences. He appreciates getting to know students from different backgrounds and keeping in touch with the younger generation of students, especially now that he's approaching 40.

Chris' very first day as a full time Legal Writing Professor was at the LWI conference in Philadelphia in 2014. He still remembers how friendly everyone was and how incredible the presentations were—he learned so much! Chris became the director at Minnesota in 2016. In this role, he supervises a number of adjuncts, and he sees it as a way to keep in touch with practicing lawyers in a variety of sectors of the legal profession in the state. He enjoys hiring, training, and facilitating their work with students. And he likes seeing how much the adjuncts enjoy their work.

One constant throughout Chris' years of working as a lawyer has been his wife, Megan Walsh. Megan graduated from Duke University School of Law the same year Chris graduated Cornell. They met in Minneapolis, while Megan was clerking on the Eighth Circuit at the same time as Chris, just down the hall, for the Honorable Diana E. Murphy. Megan also worked in Palau, as a lawyer for the House of Delegates. They married in 2012 and now have two children: Greta is three, and Emeline is one. Chris and Megan love to travel, though their jet-setting days are on hold for a bit. For now, Minnesota's north shore on Lake Superior with two kids feels far enough.

You can reach Chris at csoper@umn.edu.



Chris and Dentons colleagues celebrating after a Ninth Circuit argument in San Francisco



Chris and Megan in Palau with Team Stingers after a championship victory

Danielle Tully, continued



Danielle is passionate about meaningfully contributing to the resolution of pressing social justice issues, both here in the States and abroad. Initially, she pursued a graduate degree to work on international human rights issues, but her studies made her realize that we have vast human rights issues affecting the United States, too. So, in addition to working abroad, she also spent a large portion of her career tackling injustice in the United States.

Her career reflects her dedication to the service of others. Her first endeavor after law school sent Danielle to Eritrea where she worked for the government in the Office of Legal Advisor on the claims process from the 1998-2000 war between Eritrea and Ethiopia. After that, she returned to the United States to clerk for Judge Hornby in the District of Maine. Later, she joined the ACLU's National Security Project where she spent two years before beginning a clinical teaching fellowship at Seton Hall. At Seton Hall, she worked with Baher Azmy in his Constitutional Law and Civil Rights clinic and with Shavar Jeffries in his Civil Litigation clinic.

At each of these positions, she was surrounded by brilliant legal minds who demonstrated compassion and kindness toward others. She also benefitted from their generous mentoring. Danielle had her sights set on transitioning into academia permanently when she accepted the position at Seton Hall. In her second year, though, her husband received the opportunity to serve as an advisor to the U.S. Africa Command in Djibouti. The opportunity was too important to pass up, so Danielle put her academic career on hold so that her family could support her husband in his new venture.



Danielle and her husband Oyé marched for equality in the Boston Women's March



Family adventures in London: Danielle, Oyé, Ulysses Sekai, and Pallas Mahdia

At the time, Danielle and her husband were raising two school-aged children and running a bike shop in Harlem where they lived. They opened this shop in 2008, and once they decided her husband would take the position in Djibouti, Danielle assumed the day-to-day management of the bike shop. Eventually, the position in Djibouti transformed into a position in Stuttgart, Germany, and the entire family moved to Germany for two years. While there, Danielle split her time commuting internationally: while in Germany, she explored the country and spent time with her family; while in the United States, she operated their bike shop.

During this time, Danielle also became involved in the small business community in Harlem and cultivated an interest in supporting modest means entrepreneurs with legal assistance. Upon her family's return to New York City, she began working for a non-profit organization that provided exactly that type of assistance. While serving clients, she also had the opportunity to mentor 1L summer interns and 2L summer externs, which was one of the highlights of her job.

She's now entering her second year at Suffolk Law School, and her transition has been smooth so far. Her new role as an academic fulfills a dream to teach that began in law

Danielle Tully, conclusion

school, a time when she was particularly interested in experiential learning. She was inspired by her clinical professor Carwina Weng, her legal writing professor Jane Kent Gionfriddo, and her professional responsibility professor Alexis Anderson. Over the past year, she has been the fortunate recipient of mentorship by Samantha Moppett and Kathy Vinson while discovering that she loves being able to focus exclusively on the growth and learning process of her students.

As with most of us, Danielle's practice experience in resolving social justice issues influences not only her classroom, but also her scholarship. She has several projects ongoing, all of which acknowledge the need for cultural sensibility to resolve pressing legal and social justice issues. One project involves studying methods and approaches for including cultural sensibility as a core lawyering skill in the law school curriculum. The other is exploring global legal skills as a vehicle for teaching cultural sensibility. In true academic form, her scholarship informs her classroom, too – she is constantly asking herself, "Why is this important to the ILs in my class? How can I make this relevant?"

Perhaps the key attribute that ensures Danielle's success in academia and potential to shine as a legal writing star is her hobby—learning new things. Seriously. In her words:

I love breaking things down into component parts, figuring them out, assembling, reimagining, and the like. IKEA hacks, building a bike wheel, sewing, these are just a few of the things I have learned to do in the past five years. I wouldn't say I have mastered any of these skills, but I am still practicing. I also enjoy being outside—hiking, biking, playing badminton with my kids.

In her personal journey, Danielle is fortunate to have had the inspiration and support of teachers and family who encourage her to grow and seek novel solutions to old problems. Her career path has emerged through her partnership with a human being she admires and respects with his own goals and dreams. Together they have lived and worked on three continents, in multiple countries and states, while raising two kids.

Danielle's tenacity for problem solving is exactly what we teach our students day in and day out. It is the work of lawyers to figure things out and to understand we may never master the skill. Even so, we press on, we improve, we build, we try again.

You can reach Danielle at ltully@suffolk.edu.



Family time in Rome: Danielle and her husband Oyé with their two children, Ulysses Sekai (nearly 15) and Pallas Mahdia (11)

UPCOMING LEGAL WRITING EVENTS

October 21, 2017
Capital Area Legal
Writing Conference
Regent University School of Law

October 27, 2017
New England Consortium of
Legal Writing Teachers
University of Connecticut
School of Law

December 2, 2017
LWI One-Day Workshops
Coming to a law school near you!

January 3-6, 2018
112th AALS Conference
San Diego, CA

March 23-24, 2018
Rocky Mountain Legal
Writing Conference
University of Denver Sturm
College of the Law

April 21, 2018
Southeastern Regional Legal
Writing Conference
Co-Hosted by Emory
and Georgia State

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

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

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

"So you must wake up every morning knowing that no promise is unbreakable, least of all the promise of waking up at all. This is not despair. These are the preferences of the universe itself: verbs over nouns, actions over states, struggle over hope."

Ta-Nehisi Coates
Between the World and Me

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 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 keep a master list of all the profiles, so that we can ensure a wide range of coverage over time.

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 who we should put on the list for a future newsletter, please feel free to email any of the committee members listed below. If you could include a note explaining why you think the individual's profile would be particularly interesting, it will help us in developing priorities.

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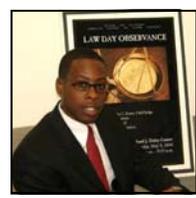
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