

**KAREN McDONALD HENNING**  
**University of Detroit Mercy School of Law**  
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### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

*Associate Professor of Law* Aug. 2017 – Present  
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF LAW

Prior Appointments: Assistant Professor of Law, Aug. 2012 – July 2017  
Assistant Professor of Legal Research and Writing, Aug. 2009 - July 2012  
Visiting Professor of Law, Aug. 2008 - July 2009  
Adjunct Professor of Law, Jan. 2008 – Aug. 2008

Courses Taught: Advanced Advocacy; Applied Legal Theory and Analysis; Civil Procedure;  
Criminal Procedure-Adjudications; Criminal Procedure-Investigations;  
Federal Jurisdiction; Judicial Clerkship Seminar; Pretrial Criminal Litigation

Faculty Service: Member, Faculty Formation Committee (University committee), Fall  
2025 - present  
Member, Rank and Tenure Executive Committee, May 2025 – present  
Chair, Admissions Committee, January 2025 – present  
Co-Chair, ABA Self-Study and Site Committee Visit, August 2024 – present  
Member, Faculty Hiring Committee, August 2024 – May 2025  
Member, Committee for Hiring of Director of Student Services, 2023 and  
2021  
Member, Ad-Hoc Committee on the Evaluation of Faculty Teaching and  
Implementation Task Force (University task force), January 2022 –  
present  
Member, Dual J.D. Executive Committee, January 2022 – January 2025  
Member, Dual J.D. Curriculum Committee, August 2023 – August 2024  
Member (ex officio), Curriculum Committee, January 2022 – January 2025  
Member (ex officio), Petitions Committee, January 2022 – January 2025  
Faculty Representative, University Faculty Search Committee for  
President of University of Detroit Mercy, January 2022 (interviewed semi-  
finalists)  
Chair, Search Committee for Assistant Dean of Academic Success, June  
2020 – November 2020  
Chair, Student Success Task Force, May 2020 – January 2021  
Chair, Admissions Committee, 2019 – 2021  
Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2016 – 2019

Co-Chair, ABA Self Study and Reaccreditation Committee, 2017  
Chair, Moot Court Committee, 2018 – 2020  
Member, Faculty Excellence Selection Committee, 2018 – 2023 (Chair for last year)(University Committee)  
Member, Moot Court Committee, 2016 – 2018, 2008 - 2014  
Member, Search Committee for Communications Specialist, 2017 & 2018  
Chair, Detroit Mercy Law School Honor Council, 2016 – 2017  
Chair, Admissions Committee, 2015 – 2016; 2013 – 2014  
Member, Search Committee for Director of Career Service, 2018 and 2016  
Member, Student Conduct Task Force, 2016  
Chair, Judicial Clerkship Committee, 2011 – 2013  
Member, Dean Search Committee, 2012 – 2013  
Member, Bar Task Force, 2012 – 2013  
Member, Law Review Committee, 2008 – 2014  
Coordinator, Writing for Publications Program, 2008 – 2011  
Brief Grader, Adam A. Milani Disability Law Writing Competition (sponsored by Mercer University Law School), 2010 – 2023

Honors & Awards: Student Bar Association, Administrator of the Year, 2022 & 2023  
University of Detroit Mercy Faculty Excellence Award, 2018  
Student Bar Association Professor of the Year, 2018  
James T. Barnes, Sr. Memorial Faculty Scholar Award, 2016  
Moot Court Faculty Coach of the Year, 2009 and 2012

### **ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs* January 2022 – January 2025  
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF LAW

*Interim Associate Dean for Enrollment Management and Communications* Dec. 2013 – Jan. 2014  
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF LAW

### **PUBLICATIONS**

MASTERING CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (3d ed. Carolina Press 2020) (with Ellen Podgor, Peter Henning, Cynthia Jones, & Sanjay Chhablani)

CRIMINAL PRETRIAL ADVOCACY (1st ed. Thompson West, 2013; 2d ed. 2016; 3d ed. 2019) (with Peter Henning and Leonid Feller)

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie: Increasing Assessments and Feedback in Law School Classes*, 95 U. DET. MERCY L. REV. 35 (2017) (with Julia Belian)

*“Reasonable” Police Mistakes: Fourth Amendment Claims and the Good Faith Exception After Heien*, 90 ST. JOHN’S L. REV. 271 (2016) (lead article)

*The Failed Legacy of Absolute Immunity under Imbler: Providing a Compromise Approach to Claims of Prosecutorial Immunity*, 48 GONZAGA L. REV. 219 (2013) (lead article)

Student Comment, *“Creating a Private Cause of Action for Abusive Animal Research,”* 134 U. PENN. L. REV. 399 (1986)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie: Increasing Assessments and Feedback in Law School Classes*, University of Detroit Mercy Law Review Symposium, Detroit, MI, March 3, 2017 (with Julia Belian)

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie: How Bar Exam Ready Students Become Practice Ready Practitioners*, INSTITUTE FOR LAW TEACHING AND LEARNING, University of Washburn Law School, Topeka, Kansas, June 11, 2016 (with Julia Belian)

*Beyond the Trophy: Creating a Successful Moot Court Program*, LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE-sponsored Moot Court Conference, Marquette Law School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 25, 2014 (with Michelle Richards)

*When Bad Grades Happen to Good Students: Methods for Correcting Disparities Between Student Performance in Doctrinal and Legal Writing Courses*, 2011 AALS CONFERENCE, Teaching Methods Section, San Francisco, CA, January 8, 2011 (with Julia Belian)

*Teaching the Writer to Do the Heavy Lifting: A Systematic Approach to Case Analysis*, 2010 LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, Poster Presentation (with Michelle Richards)

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

*The Class of the Discretionary Function Exception and the Intentional Tort Exception in the Federal Torts Claim Act*, in progress

CRIMINAL PRETRIAL ADVOCACY (4<sup>th</sup> ed West, forthcoming winter 2026) (with Adam Wright and Leonid Feller)

MASTERING CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (4<sup>th</sup> ed. Carolina Press, forthcoming fall 2026) (with Ellen Podgor, Jelani Jefferson Exum, and Emily Hughes)

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

*Assistant Corporation Counsel, Appellate Division* 1992 – 1994  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL (now the Office of the Attorney General  
for the District of Columbia), Washington, D.C.

*Litigation Associate* 1987 – 1992  
SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM, Washington, D.C.

*Law Clerk* 1986 – 1987  
Hon. Collins J. Seitz  
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

## **EDUCATION**

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA  
J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1986  
Executive Editor, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW, 1985 – 1986  
Assistant Editor, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW, 1984 – 1985  
*Order of the Coif*  
*Research Assistant*, Professor Stephen J. Schulhofer, 1984 – 1985

TRINITY COLLEGE, Hartford, CT  
B.A. with Honors (Political Science), 1981

## **BAR MEMBERSHIP**

State Bar of Michigan (active), District of Columbia Bar (inactive)