

MICHELLE L. RICHARDS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF LAW – DETROIT, MI

Professor of Law

Teaching Responsibilities:

- Civil Procedure, Public Health Law, Torts, Applied Legal Theory & Analysis (legal writing)
- Additional courses designed and taught in prior academic years:
 - Pre-Trial Litigation Skills – course provides students with a simulated civil litigation experience; students represent a plaintiff or defendant from the client interview through pre-trial motions; utilized local judges, attorneys, and other litigation entities (court reporters, mediators, expert witnesses) for motion practice, alternative dispute resolution, and deposition skills exercises; Advanced Appellate Advocacy – course provides a unique, process-based approach to persuasive writing and focuses on improving a young lawyer's ability to effectively communicate during oral arguments.

Service/Committee Responsibilities:

Detroit Mercy School of Law – Present Appointments:

- Curriculum Committee (2017 – Present), Chair (Fall 2025), Co-Chair (2021 – Present), Chair – 1L Curriculum Sub-committee (2018-2020)
- Petitions Committee (2022-Present)
- Teaching Effectiveness Subcommittee
- Bar Exam Mentor (2020 – Present)
- Admissions Mock Class Instructor for Prospective Students
- Law Review Note Advisor (supervise/advise 2 students per year on law review note submissions)

Detroit Mercy School of Law – Past Appointments

- Faculty Recruitment & Hiring Committee (2021-2022)
- University Teaching, Learning, and Institutional Technology Committee (2020 – 2021)
- Honor Council (2019-2022)
- Orientation Committee (2016 – 2019)
- Faculty Chair – Orientation Committee (Fall 2016 & 2017)
- Admissions Committee (2018 – 2019)

- Faculty Chair - Moot Court Board of Advocates (2006 – 2015) Responsible for administration and coaching of 8 – 15 moot court teams which competed in national competitions, and for the administration, management, and problem creation for 2 internal competitions. O Responsible for coaching the 2009 National Moot Court Championship team.
- Achieved national ranking for moot court program.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW – EAST LANSING, MI

Visiting Professor of Law – Fall 2023 (Civil Procedure)

National Committees/Service Appointments:

- Association of Legal Writing Directors – Leadership and Development Committee (2022)
- Legal Writing Institute – Pre-Law Outreach Committee (2014)

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- *Before the Memory Fades: Evaluating the Need for a National Quarantine Strategy as Part of a Modernized Public Health Response to the Next Pandemic*, Health Matrix – Journal of Law-Medicine, Case Western Reserve University School of Law (Volume 34, March 2024).
- Distinguished Commentary - *Why Detroit Mercy Law Chose Criterion-Referenced Assessment Over Grading Curves*, Raising the Bar – Evidence-Based Thinking About the Bar Exam, Volume 6, Issue 3, AccessLex.org (Summer 2023).
- *Relying on the Unreliable? COVID-19 Claims Can't Proceed Without a Proper Standard of Care*, Bill of Health – Blog Symposia of The Petrie-Flom Center, Harvard Law School (October 19, 2022)
- *Going Viral: Discouraging the Premature Use of Civil Liability Strategies as a Response to COVID-19*, 19 U.N.H. Law. Rev. 69 (2021).
- *Pills, Public Nuisance, and Parens Patriae: Questioning the Procedural Posture of the Opioid Litigation*, 54 Richmond L. Rev. 405 (January 2020).
- *12 Angry Men vs. The Agency: Why Preemption Should Resolve this Conflict in Drug Labeling Litigation*, 100 Marq. L. Rev. 1309 (2017).
- *Elements of Good Legal Writing: The Topic Sentence*, Detroit Legal News, 2013.
- *The Methodology of Persuasion: A Process-Based Approach to Persuasive Writing*, 13 Legal Writing: J. Legal Writing Inst. 159 (2007) (co-authored with Cara Cunningham-Warren).

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- *Public Health Law and Covid-19. Where Did We Go Wrong?* Panelist - Workshop on Health Law – SEALS (Summer 2021).
- *Discipline Building: Balance in the Age of Chaos*, Discussion Group – Writing Connections Workshop – SEALS (Summer 2021).

- *Discipline Building: Scholarship and Status in the Legal Academy*, Discussion Group – Writing Connections Workshop – SEALS (Summer 2021).
- *The Law of Contagion: How the Historical Role of the Legal System in Responding to Infectious Disease Can Guide an Effective Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law – Law Review Symposium – October 2020.
- *12 Angry Men vs. The Agency: Why Preemption Should Resolve this Conflict in Drug Labeling Litigation*, New Scholars Program, Sponsored by Legal Writing Section, AALS 2017, San Francisco, California.
- *Beyond the Trophy: Creating a Successful Moot Court Program*, LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE-sponsored Moot Court Conference, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Fall, 2014 (co-presenter w/ Karen Henning).
- *How to Write for Law School*, LWI Pre-Law Outreach National Committee - NAPLA 2014 Conference, Baltimore Law School, Baltimore, Maryland, June 2014.
- *Teaching the Writer to Do the Heavy Lifting: A Systematic Approach to Case Analysis*, 2010 LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, Poster Presentation.
- Faculty – ICLE Deposition Skills Conference, Plymouth, Michigan, Spring, 2011

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND OTHER NOTEWORTHY COMMENTARIES

- Recently provided television interviews as a legal scholar/commentator for ABC affiliates in Detroit and Grand Rapids on the Michigan Court of Claims opinion issuing a preliminary injunction in the enforcement of Michigan's abortion law in the litigation challenging the constitutionality of this law.
- Several AP/Reuters interviews on my 2020 article on public nuisance that was cited by the Oklahoma Supreme Court in its landmark November 2021 opinion setting aside a \$465M judgment against Johnson & Johnson arising out of the opioid crisis. In its opinion, the Oklahoma Supreme Court rejected the use of public nuisance as a theory of liability against the drug manufacturer, relying in part on the history set forth in this 2020 article.
- Provided several interviews to multiple AP/Reuters reporters on the use of public nuisance as a theory of liability in the opioid litigation, the litigation filed against the meat packing companies and Amazon arising out of COVID transmission, and the Tulsa Race Massacre litigation in light of the Oklahoma Supreme Court opinion cited above.

EDUCATION

- **Juris Doctor** – *University of Detroit Mercy School of Law*, 1994
- **Bachelor of Arts** – *Michigan State University, College of Social Science* – Multidisciplinary Studies Pre-Law (Political Science, Psychology, & Economics), 1991

SELECTED LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

CUMMINGS, MCCLOREY, DAVIS & ACHO, P.C. – LIVONIA, MI *Of*

Counsel (effective June 2022 - Present)

Provide experience, consultation, and active drafting of documents on various legal matters including appellate cases, civil litigation, transactional drafting & negotiation.

COMCAST CABLE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. – MIDWEST DIVISION – SOUTHFIELD, MI

Director of Regulatory & Legal Affairs, Midwest Division

Responsibilities relative to regulated services and general legal services for a 10-state division of a major cable and telecommunications company including but not limited to areas of commercial and transactional law, contracts, business law, antitrust compliance, mergers and acquisitions, employee relations and benefits, litigation, and real property.

HARVEY KRUSE, PC – TROY, MI

Senior Associate

- Litigation associate specializing in trial and appellate work in insurance defense, including premises liability, automobile negligence, general negligence, products liability, environmental law, construction law, labor/employment law, and contracts.

OTHER LEGAL PRACTICE PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- Lecturer – CORT Appellate Advocacy and Legal Writing Workshop, Novi, Michigan, Fall, 2005 (co-lecturer).
- *Alternative Legal Careers for the Young Attorney* – Co-Chairperson of Program sponsored by Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan, April 2001.
- *Stress Management for the Young Professional* – Chairman of Program sponsored by Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan, March 2000. The program received ABA Award from Young Lawyers Division and was selected for national presentation at ABA/YLD Annual Meeting in Tucson, AZ in October 2000.
- *Lawyer to Lawyer: Increasing Civility and Professionalism for Young Attorneys* – Chairman of Program sponsored by Young Lawyers Section of State Bar of Michigan – March 1999.
- Various submissions to the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan Newsletter, "Inter Alia."

AFFILIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Licensed to practice in all Michigan Courts, U.S. District Courts (MI), and Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Member, State Bar of Michigan
- Member, American Bar Association
- Executive Council Member – Young Lawyers Section of State Bar of Michigan (1998-2001).
- Secretary/Treasurer - Young Lawyers Section State Bar of Michigan (1999-2000).
- American Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division Delegate (1998-2001).
- University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Alumni Board of Directors (2000 – 2001).
- Detroit Bar Association – Judicial Advisory Committee (1995-1996).

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

- Golf
- Classical Ballet & contemporary dance
- Travel and spending time with friends & family