

DONNA L. ENG
Legal Skills Professor
University of Florida Levin College of Law
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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Florida Levin College of Law

Fall 2023-present

Courses

- Legal Writing I and II (Fall 2023, Spring 2024)
- Pre-Trial Practice (Spring 2024)

Service

- Adjunct Committee (2023-2024)
- Academic Standards Committee (2024-2025)

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Mrachek, Fitzgerald, Rose, Konopka, Thomas & Weiss, P.A.

October 2015-July 2023

Senior Associate

- Represent small to mid-size corporations, government actors, and individuals in federal and state trial and appellate courts.
- Matters include corporate business disputes; contract disputes; termination of employment; employment covenants; real estate, land use, and development matters; and, probate and trust matters.

Carlton Fields, West Palm Beach, Florida

March 2012-September 2015

Appellate Counsel

- Represented financial institutions in appeals of residential foreclosure matters. Prepared over 150 appellate briefs and responses to petitions for writs of certiorari in the five District Courts of Appeal and the Florida Supreme Court. Argued four cases before District Courts of Appeal.

Donna Eng, P.A., Jupiter, Florida

April 2011 - March 2012

Shareholder

- Provided trial and litigation support in state and federal court civil matters including discovery, dispositive motion briefing, motion practice and court appearances.
- Matters included corporate business disputes, limitation of liability in insurance contracts, personal injury, premises liability, and home owner's association real estate litigation.
- Represented individuals in criminal appellate and post-conviction proceedings.

United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, West Palm Beach, Florida Oct. 2003 – March 2011

Administrative Law Clerk to United States Magistrate Judge James M. Hopkins

- Reviewed attorney briefing and evidentiary submissions. Researched and prepared orders and memoranda. Managed Chambers' operations.

- Analysis of complex legal issues including: Section 1983 Claims; International Arbitration Disputes; Employment Covenants and Non-Competition Agreements; Fair Labor Standards Act; Patent, Trademark, and Copyright Infringement; Class Certification; Attorney’s Fee awards, and Electronic Discovery.

Florida Office of the Attorney General, West Palm Beach, Florida October 2000 – Sept 2003
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Appeals Division

- Researched and drafted appellate briefs and memoranda of law in criminal appeals and collateral attacks of convictions. Argued six cases before the Fourth District Court of Appeal.

Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, Fort Lauderdale, Florida Sept 1997 – October 2000
Assistant State Attorney Misdemeanor Trial Division (1997–1998), Felony Trial Unit (1998–2000)

- Tried over 56 jury and non-jury cases in County and Circuit Court. Responsible for managing 250 felony cases and 200 misdemeanor cases, respectively.
- Prosecuted daily criminal docket, including arraignments, hearings and motions. Investigated alibis, trial witnesses and evidence submitted in mitigation of charges. Answered demands for discovery, attended and took depositions. Prepared witnesses. Researched, drafted and argued motions. Negotiated plea agreements with defense counsel. Mentored junior attorneys. Lectured law enforcement officers regarding criminal jury proceedings.

ADDITIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Travelers Insurance In-House Counsel Law Offices of Robert F. Tacher, Fort Lauderdale, Florida Fall 1997

Waller & Associates, New Orleans, Louisiana 1996-1997

The Port of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana Summer 1996

Loyola University, Professor Henry D. Gabriel, New Orleans, Louisiana 1995-1996

New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation, Housing Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana Summer 1995

EDUCATION

Loyola University, School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana Juris Doctor 1997
Member: Loyola Moot Court, Loyola Poverty Law Journal & Phi Delta Phi

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida Graduate Studies International Affairs 1993-1994
Bachelor of Arts, Spanish and Political Science 1993

PUBLICATIONS

Should Legal Writing Professors Continue to Teach Traditional Legal Citation Rules for Parentheticals Despite the Increased Usage of (Cleaned Up) Parentheticals?, The Second Draft (Vol. 37, No.2, Oct. 31, 2024), [Should Legal Writing Professors Continue to Teach Traditional Legal Citation Rules for Parentheticals Despite the Increased Usage of \(Cleaned Up\) Parentheticals? | LWI](#)

The Role of ‘Light Plagiarism’ in Legal Writing, from a Recent Practitioner’s Perspective, The Unending Conversation (forthcoming summer 2025).

Is F.S. §732.703 Susceptible to a Constitutional Challenge by a Former Spouse Whose Claim for Benefits is Denied?, FLORIDA BAR JOURNAL (May 2017).

Online Defamation: Do Hyperlinks Constitute Republication for Florida Defamation and Trade Libel Claims?, Florida Bar Journal (May 2016).

Pretrial Restraint of Assets: Lawful Governmental Interference with the Right to Counsel of Choice?, FLORIDA DEFENDER (Vol. 25, No. 3, Fall 2013).

The Viability of an Insanity Defense in Federal Revocation Proceedings, FLORIDA DEFENDER (Vol. 24, No. 4, Winter 2012).

The Unsettled State of Pregnancy Discrimination Claims Under the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, FLORIDA BAR JOURNAL (Sept. 2012).

The Importance of Federal Habeas Review as a Means to Challenge Florida’s Death Penalty Sentencing and Drug Possession Statutes, FLORIDA DEFENDER (Vol. 23, No. 4, Winter 2011).

Battling International Piracy of the Copyright Industries through NAFTA, 2 LOY. INTELL. PROP. & HIGH TECH. L. Q. 4 (1997).

PRESENTATIONS

“Should Legal Writing Professors Change How They Teach Citations in the Age of Generative AI?”; co-presented with Professor Margie Alsbrook, Mercer University (presented AALS Annual Meeting, January 2025)

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITIONS

- Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Appellate Practice (2015-2024)
- AV Preeminent® Rated by Martindale Hubbell
- Selected to Florida SuperLawyers
- Selected to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite
- Awarded Leader in the Law by the Florida Association for Women Lawyers

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Legal Writing Institute, *The Second Draft*, Editorial Board (2025-2028)
- Florida Bar Appellate Court Rules Committee, Member (2016-2022).
- Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court LIV, President, 2017-2018; Board Member and Co-Chair, Programming Committee (2014-16); Board Member and Co-Chair, Mentoring Committee (2012-14).
- Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Board of Directors (2015-2024). Executive Board, Immediate Past President (2023-2024); President (2022-2023); President-elect (2021-2022);

Treasurer (2020-2021); Secretary (2019-2020); Development Director (2018-2019); Journal Director/Editor (2016-2017).

- Martin County Women Lawyers Association, a chapter of FAWL, Immediate Past President (2020-2021); President (2019-2020); Executive Board, (2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019). Opened first dedicated lactation space in Martin County Courthouse (2019).
- Martin County Bar Association, Appellate Committee Co-Chair (2016-2023).
- Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Palm Beach Chapter, Board Member and Secretary (2015-16), Board Member and Treasurer (2013-15); Chair, Pro Bono Committee (2013-14); Co-Chair, Mentoring Committee (2012-13).
- Martin County Bar Association, Appellate Committee Chair and Co-Chair (2015-2023).
- Palm Beach County Bar Association, Committee for Diversity and Inclusion (2014-15), Judicial Relations Committee (2008-11).
- We Are Dwyer Foundation (Founding member 2014).

PROFESSIONAL CLE PRESENTATIONS WHILE IN PRACTICE

Speaker, "Tips to Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure for Civil Appeals, "Martin County FAWL and Martin County Bar Association (February 2018).

Panelist, "Board Certification Bootcamp Take 2," Martin County FAWL (January 2018).

Panelist, "Preservation of Error for Trial Lawyers," Palm Beach County Bar Association (June 2017).

Panelist, "Board Certification Bootcamp," Martin County FAWL (February 2017).

Speaker, "Preservation of Error for Trial Attorneys," Martin County FAWL and St. Lucie County Bar Association (Spring 2019).

Speaker, "Tips to Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure for Civil Appeals," Martin County FAWL and Martin County Bar Association (February 2018); Port St. Lucie Bar Association (September 2018).

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Florida Bar; United States Supreme Court; United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit; Southern District of Florida; Middle District of Florida; Northern District of Florida

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Written)