

BEN L. FERNANDEZ

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EMPLOYMENT**2015-Present, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL****Master Legal Skills Professor:**

Teaching Legal Drafting, Legal Writing, Legal Drafting with Artificial Intelligence and Pretrial Practice to first year and upper-level law students. Also taught an online course for summer externship program.

- *Chair of Admissions Committee, Member of Academic Standards Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Pro Bono Committee, Diversity and Community Relations Committee.*
- *Participant in Minority Mentoring Program, Faculty Adviser Program and New Student Match Program. Faculty Adviser to Cuban American Bar Association.*
- *Member of Diversity Committee, Legal Writing Institute, Editorial Board for the Second Draft*

2011-2015, Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville, FL**Associate Professor**

Taught Legal Methods (Legal Analysis), Legal Research and Objective Writing, Lawyering Process for Litigation Practice, Transactional Drafting and Modern Real Estate Transactions to first year and upper-level law students.

- *Recipient of 2013 "Diversity Award" from Jacksonville Business Journal.*
- *Member of Multi-Cultural Committee; Participant in Faculty Mentoring Program; Faculty Advisor for Student Newspaper, "The Rainmaker."*
- *Volunteered to help immigrants obtain citizenship in Citizenship Day program.*
- *Taught legal analysis to team members at the Wounded Warrior Project in Jacksonville, Florida.*

2008 – 2011, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA**Adjunct Professor**

Taught Legal Research and Writing to first year law school students.

- *Attended One-Day Workshops for Adjunct Professors and New Legal Writing Professors in 2009, 2010 and 2011.*
- *Member, Legal Writing Institute.*

2007 – 2011, Cape Cod Community College, Barnstable, MA**Adjunct Professor**

Taught Business Law to undergraduate college students.

2001- 2015, Ben L. Fernandez, Attorney at Law, Plymouth, MA

Solo practitioner: represented Barnstable County HOME Consortium in connection with the financing of affordable housing projects on Cape Cod; also represented TD Bank in residential mortgage loan closings.

- *Volunteer teacher for Junior Achievement of Southern Massachusetts' financial literacy program*
- *Volunteer speaker at homebuyer education seminars sponsored by South Shore Housing and Housing Assistance Corp.*
- *Volunteer member Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Inc.*

1996 – 2001, Massachusetts Housing Partnership Fund Board, Boston, MA

Assistant General Counsel: practiced in the in-house legal department of a public agency that provides financing for affordable housing projects in Massachusetts. Represented agency in commercial real estate loan closings.

1993 – 1995, Fitzhugh & Associates, Boston, MA

Managing Attorney: lead the business department of a small minority owned firm. Handled banking litigation and real estate conveyancing. Trained and supervised five attorneys, two secretaries and one paralegal.

1990 – 1993, Peabody and Arnold, Boston, MA

Associate: practiced in the litigation and banking departments of a large general practice firm.

1987 – 1990, Brown, Rudnick, Freed and Gesmer, Boston, MA

Associate: practiced in the litigation and bankruptcy departments of a large general practice firm.

EDUCATION

Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA

**Graduate Program in Banking
and Financial Law Studies**

LL.M. 1995; G.P.A. 3.97

Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA

J.D. 1987, top 15% of class

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

College of Arts and Sciences

B.A. 1984; Dean's List

PRESENTATIONS

- *"Creating and Using Customizable AI Assistants for Law Professors,"* 2nd Annual AI & Legal Skills Virtual Conference, June 3, 2026.
- *"Using AI in Contract Drafting Review,"* 18th Annual International Conference on Contracts, February 21, 2026.
- *"Drafting Tomorrow's Contract,"* 2025 Carolinas Legal Research and Writing Colloquium, May 21, 2025.
- *"Incorporating ChatGPT in the Legal Research & Writing Classroom,"* William and Mary Law School, August of 2023.
- *"Improving Legal Communication with Design Techniques,"* Writing Connections, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, July of 2023.
- *"Learning from [over-] Shared Experiences,"* The Legal Writing Institute's 2021 "One Day Workshop" in Gainesville, Florida on December 10, 2022.
- *"Grading, Assessment, and Feedback That Promote Inclusive Learning,"* Writing Connections, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, July of 2022.
- *"Beyond Conventions in Legal Drafting,"* the Legal Writing Institute's 2021 "One Day Workshop" in Gainesville, Florida on December 11, 2021.
- *"Partnering with Practice: Bringing Practitioners into Your Classroom to Make Law Practice Real"* Writing Connections, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, August of 2020.
- *"Connecting Teaching and Learning: Formative Assessment,"* Writing Connections, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, August 2018.
- *"Ferrari Has Really Fast Race Cars, A Mnemonic for Doing a Case Analogy in the "A" Section of IRAC,"* Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, March 24, 2018.
- *"Small Changes, Big Results: Incremental Changes People can make in LRW Classes to Improve Learning, Feedback, and Engagement,"* The Legal Writing Institute's 2017 "One Day Workshop" in Ft. Lauderdale, December 7, 2017.
- *"Paper Research,"* the Legal Writing Institute's 2012 "One Day Workshop," Atlanta, Georgia.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Legal Writing I & II: Legal Research and Writing & Introduction to Litigation Practice* (Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing 2021).
- *Transactional Drafting: Introduction to Contract Drafting and Transactional Practice* (Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing 2021).

Articles

- *"Contract Drafting Classes Should Introduce Law Students to Real-World Practice Like Other Legal Writing Classes,"* Saint Louis University Law Journal, PENDING PUBLICATION.

- “*Uniform, Supervised Programs: A Step Backwards for Legal Writing*,” Legal Writing Journal, PENDING PUBLICATION.
- “*Drafting in the Digital Age: Contract Design and Web-Based Consumer Contracts*,” The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing, 22 The Scribes J. of Legal Writing 63 (2026).
- “*Teaching Contract Drafting in the Age of Generative AI*,” AALS Section on Legal Writing Reasoning, and Research Newsletter (Fall 2024).
- “*Teaching Bias in the Current Law School Climate; Sample Exercises for a Legal Writing Class*,” 37 The Second Draft (October 2024).
- “*Contract Drafting Classes Need to Devote More Consideration to the Law Applicable to “Boilerplate” Clauses*,” 31 Persps. 2 (2024).
- “*Introducing Law Students to Transactional Practice: From Using Precedent to Closing the Deal*,” 25 Tenn. J. Bus. L. (2024).
- “*We Need to Understand How ChatGPT Can be Used for a Contract Drafting Class and Change our Pedagogy to Compensate*,” 30 Persps. 63 (2023).
- “*Should Students Read and Apply Cases in a Contract Drafting Class?*,” 43 The Second Draft (December 2021).
- “*A Letter to My Younger (Teaching Self)*,” AALS LWRR Section Newsletter (Summer 2018).
- “*Opportunities for Collaboration in Transactional Drafting*,” UF Law Faculty Blogs, April 1, 2018.
- “*Ferrari Has Really Fast Race Cars, A Mnemonic for Doing a Case Analogy in the “A” Section of IRAC*,” Institute for Law Teaching and Learning Blog, February 9, 2018.
- “*Avoiding the ‘Paper Research’ v. ‘Computer Research’ Trap*,” The Law Teacher, Journal of the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, Volume XXIV, Number 1, Fall 2017.
- “*Everything a 2L Really Needs to Know About Citation*,” Before the Bar Blawg – ABA Journal for Law Students, November 21, 2017.
- “*The Duties of Mutual Fund Independent Trustees with Respect to the Investment Advisory Fee*,” Boston Bar Journal, March / April 1997, at 12.
- “*Federal Government may revise Terminology for “Hispanics*,” Noticias, Newsletter of the Hispanic National Bar Association, Winter 1996, at 11.
- “*Affirmative Action after Adarand*,” Noticias, Newsletter of the Hispanic National Bar Association, Fall 1995, at 11.
- “*Lien’s Attachment to Fire Insurance Proceeds*,” Mass Lawyers Weekly, May 3, 1993, at 11.
- “*RTC May Disaffirm Part of ‘Divisible’ Contract*,” Mass Lawyers Weekly, March 23, 1992, at 11.
- “*Banned*,” American Motorcyclist Magazine, May 1992, at 40 (discusses a court decision banning motorcyclists from D.W. Field Park in Brockton, Massachusetts).