

KAREN McDONALD HENNING
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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: 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 (3d ed. Thompson West, 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 (4th ed West, forthcoming winter 2026) (with Adam Wright and Leonid Feller)

MASTERING CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (4th 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
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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)