

BETH MCCORMACK
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CURRENT POSITION

Vermont Law School (South Royalton, Vermont) 2011 - present

Dean of the Law School (March 2023 – present)

Interim Dean of the Law School (July 2022 – March 2023)

Interim President and Dean (January 2021 - June 30, 2022)

Professor of Law, Vice Dean for Students (2017 - January 2021)

Professor of Law, Deputy Vice Dean for Academic Affairs (2016 - 2017)

Professor of Law, Assistant Director of Legal Writing Program (2013 - 2016)

Associate Professor of Law, Assistant Director of Academic Success (2012 - 2013)

Assistant Professor of Law (2011- 2012)

- **Leadership & Management as Interim President and Dean:** Responsible for Vermont Law School from January 2021-July 2022, including managing 20 million-dollar budget and overseeing all human and financial resources; responsible for revenue generation from tuition and fundraising; worked with Board of Trustees, administration, faculty and staff on all aspects of school management; led the school through the COVID-19 pandemic and through compliance inspections and reporting from ABA, NECHE and AALS; led the development, approval and implementation of the Strategic Plan, including the Online Hybrid JD; led efforts to comply with the school’s Diversity Plan; worked with alumni, donors and friends of the school to develop and maintain philanthropic support; worked with Communications and Marketing to improve school’s profile; worked to improve the school’s external and internal reputation.
- **Leadership & Management in other roles:** Oversaw all residential and online students including curricular, academic, Honor Code, Academic Accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX, and Student Advising; chaired the COVID Response Task Force; supervised the Associate Dean for Student Affairs & Diversity, Career Services, Academic Success Program, Mental Health Resource Manager and the Registrar’s Office; regularly collaborated on school management with the Dean & President, Vice Dean for Faculty, other senior administrators, the Board of Trustees and student leaders; worked closely with Accreditors on compliance issues, including ABA, NECHE, AALS; revised Academic Regulations; Developed School Policies, such as the Service Animal Policy, Flag Policy, Involuntary Separation Policy and Credit Hours Policy.
- **Students:** Counseled students individually and in group settings to identify and analyze academic and other challenges and develop individualized plans for overcoming them; served as student advisor; intervened on mental health and other emergencies; presented regularly to students on academic and school issues; coached National Moot Court Team, Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team, Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Team; served as Faculty Advisor to the Moot Court Advisory Board.
- **Teaching:** Developed and taught legal writing, legal analysis and Civil Procedure classes; developed and taught programs based in legal and adult learning theory designed to provide students with best practices for maximizing learning and performance in law school; developed and taught February Early Bar course and July Education for the Bar course; collaborated with faculty and administration to improve curriculum, testing, and learning.
- **Service:** Dean’s Advisory Committee (elected); Dean Search Committee (elected); Strategic Planning Committee; Committee on Standards (Chair); Curriculum Committee; Admissions

Committee; Assessment Committee; Diversity Committee; Library Committee (Chair); Orientation Committee; Budget Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on Student Success; Early Intervention Status Working Group; Accreditation Committee; Bar Passage Committee; Honor Committee (Chair); and Threat Assessment Management Committee (Chair).

- **Special Programs Developed:**

Sessions in Jump Start Pre-Orientation: Intensive 3-day, invitation-only program for non-traditional students designed to introduce fundamental academic skills and concepts.

Bar Basics & Beyond: Program designed specifically for 2Ls to help them enter the 3L year with a working understanding of key bar examination details and vocabulary.

Skills-based workshops for 1Ls including: Taking Effective Notes; Time Management; Preparing for Class; Reading & Briefing a Case; Introduction to Outlining; Preparing for Midterms; Outlining for Finals; Exam Structure Workshop; Preparing for Finals; Improving on First Semester; and Maximizing Virtual Learning.

Bar-related workshops for 3Ls including: Introduction to the Bar; Simulated MPT; Simulated Mini-MBE; Planning Your Summer (bar-related logistical considerations).

Courses Taught

- Civil Procedure I (residential and Online Hybrid JD)
- Civil Procedure II (residential and Online Hybrid JD)
- Legal Writing, I
- Legal Writing II
- Appellate Advocacy
- Advanced Appellate Advocacy
- Legal Methods (legal skills course for first year law students on academic probation)
- Arbitration
- Introduction to Law (Online Learning Class)
- Environmental Dispute Resolution (Online Learning Class)
- Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar (Summer Program)
- February Early Bar course
- July Education for the Bar course

Awards & Recognition

- 2021, Award from the Women's Law Group for being the First Woman President and Dean of Vermont Law School
- 2019 - 2020, Student Bar Association Faculty Service Award
- 2018 - 2019, Award from Black Law Students' Association and Women's Law Group for Exceptional Service to Students
- 2017 - 2018, Women's Law Group "Phenomenal Woman Faculty of the Year" Award
- 2017 - 2018, Black Law Students' Association Faculty of the Year Award
- 2015 - 2016, Women's Law Group "Phenomenal Woman Faculty of the Year" Award
- 2014 - 2015, Student Bar Association Faculty Service Award
- 2013 - 2014, Women's Law Group "Phenomenal Woman Faculty of the Year" Award
- 2012 - 2013, Women's Law Group "Phenomenal Woman Faculty of the Year Award
- 2008 "Rising Star Massachusetts Lawyer" named by the editors of Boston Magazine

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Mintz Levin (Boston, Massachusetts) 2001 - 2011

Associate

- Represented clients in state and federal trial and appellate courts, arbitrations and mediations in a wide range of complex commercial disputes;
- Took and defended depositions;
- Researched and drafted briefs, motions, pleadings, and memos;
- Counseled clients; negotiated and drafted settlement agreements;
- Taught internal seminars on research and writing skills;
- Served as member of the firm's hiring committee; and
- Served as a mentor to new associates.

Boston University School of Law (Boston, Massachusetts) 2003 - 2011

- Instructed first year law students in year-long class on the fundamentals of legal writing and research.

Middlesex County District Attorney's Office (Framingham, Mass.) July 2007 - January 2008

Special Assistant District Attorney

- Represented the Commonwealth in arraignments, bail hearings, motion hearings, and bench and jury trials; and
- Took over 20 cases to trial.

Providence Public Defender's Office (Providence, R.I.) Summer 1999

Clerk, Trial Division

- Researched legal issues surrounding state criminal law provisions.

Baker & McKenzie (Chicago, Illinois) 1996 - 1998

Legal Assistant

- Assisted attorneys in case preparation.

PRESENTATIONS

Practicing What we Preach: Using the RJ Circle Process with Faculty and Staff, NECHE Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts (forthcoming December 2022).

Ways to Prevent, Identify and Correct Academic Dishonesty in the Legal Writing Classroom, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (July 2018).

Power Posing to Law School Success, New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers, Boston, Massachusetts (October 2017).

Five Engaging Ways to Teach Oral Advocacy to Students Who Fear Public Speaking, co-presented with Jennifer Taylor McCloskey, Biennial Moot Court Conference, Chicago, Illinois (April 2017).

Classroom Ideas to Teach and Model Professionalism, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Portland, Oregon (July 2016).

Not Just for Cat Videos Anymore: Ideas for Using YouTube Videos to Teach Persuasion, New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers' Conference, South Royalton, Vermont (September 2015).

May it Please the Classroom: Using Pending Supreme Court Cases to Teach Persuasion and Expose Students to Access to Justice Issues, LWI One-Day Legal Writing Workshop, Jacksonville, Florida (December 2014).

Partners rather than Just Colleagues: Ways that Legal Writing and Academic Success Can Work Together for the Benefit of Students and Both Programs' Missions, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada (March 2014).

Movies, David Ortiz, Apple Pie and Powerball: Making Legal Writing their Favorite Class, New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers, Boston, Massachusetts (December 2013).

Proofreading and Self-Editing Tips: How to Transform your Prose from Flabby to Fit, Vermont Bar Association's Annual Meeting, Fairlee, Vermont (September 2013).

PUBLICATIONS

Beth McCormack, *A Good Rebuttal is like Obscenity: You Know it when you See it*, 44 Vt. Bar. J. 22 (Winter 2018).

Beth McCormack, *Moving Beyond Furthermore and Additionally: Ways to Improve your Transitions and Paragraph Bridges in 2018*, 43 Vt. Bar. J. 20 (Winter 2017).

Beth McCormack, *New Year's (Not Years) Resolution # 1: Improve your Grammar and Punctuation*, 42 Vt. Bar. J. 16 (Winter 2016 - 2017).

Beth McCormack, *Making your Writing out of Cite: How to use Citations to Improve Credibility*, 41 Vt. Bar J. 30 (Winter 2016).

Beth McCormack, *Avoiding "Death by PowerPoint" and other Ways to Up your Presentation Game*, 40 Vt. Bar J. 25 (Winter 2015).

Beth McCormack, *Quick Proofreading Tips for Busy Attorneys*, 39 Vt. Bar. J. (Winter 2014).

Beth McCormack & William M. Hill, *Pay-If-Paid Clauses: Freedom of Contract or Protecting the Subcontractor from Itself?* *The Construction Lawyer* (Feb. 2011).

Beth McCormack & Lisa F. Glahn, *Major New Change in Law Takes Effect November 8 – 'Prompt Pay' is Here*, NAWIC Newsletter (Oct. 2010).

EDUCATION

Boston University School of Law (Boston, Massachusetts) 1998 - 2001
J.D. (*cum laudè*)
Honors: Edward F. Hennessey Distinguished Scholar,

Paul J. Liacos Scholar,
Staff Member for Public Interest Law Journal,
Albers Honors Moot Court Competition,
Craven National Moot Court Team

University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois)

1992 - 1996

A.B.

Activities: Resident Assistant
Member of Women's Crew Team

BOARD SERVICE

North Country Animal League (Morrisville, Vermont) (October 2020 – present), member of Finance Committee; mission is to support compassionate relationships between humans and animals.

National Association of Standalone Graduate Schools (June 2021 – present), mission is to collaborate with and promote the interests of independent graduate schools in the legislature, with accreditors and with other external organizations.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts, District Court of Massachusetts, First Circuit Court of Appeals

OTHER INTERESTS

Downhill and cross-country skiing, mountain biking, hiking, live and die with the Boston Red Sox