

# SUSAN SMITH BAKHSHIAN

LMU Loyola Law School  
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## BAR EXAM EXPERTISE & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL</b>	Los Angeles, California
<b>Clinical Professor</b>	July 1997 to Present
<b>Director of Bar Programs</b>	July 2011 to Present
<b>Hybrid Evening JD Program Advisor</b>	July 2022 to Present

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### *Courses Taught*

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Currently: Legal Writing and Fundamentals of Bar Exam Writing

Previously: Ethical Lawyering, Remedies, Law & Process: Privacy Torts (academic success class), California Civil Procedure, Negotiation

- Teacher of the Year (evening student division 2017-2018)
- Excellent teaching evaluations

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### *Director of Bar Programs (July 2011 to present)*

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Oversee all bar exam programs, teach bar exam prep classes, conduct bar exam student counseling, and supervise adjuncts

Create and teach the Bar Exam All Inclusive and MBE Workshops (one week intensive classes)

Developed and co-teach (with Professor Jean Boylan) Fundamentals of Bar Exam Writing (one of the first for-credit courses to prepare students for the written portions of the California Bar Exam)

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*Director of Academic Support (July 2011 to July 2016)*

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Coordinated all Academic Success Programs and student counseling (including developing and teaching in all academic success programs and student workshops on essential lawyering skills)

Created a new curriculum and coordinated faculty teaching in Summer Institute (conditional enrollment program)

Developed a new curriculum and coordinated faculty teaching in Law & Process: Privacy Torts (required academic success class)

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*Legal Writing Experience (1997 to 2010, 2016 to Present)*

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- Designed and taught a new hybrid legal writing course (beginning in fall 2022)
  - Created online bar review resources, academic success resources, and legal writing resources (all on Brightspace/D2L)
- Constructed an emergency online platform for legal writing (2020)
- Currently the most senior member of the legal writing faculty
- Evaluated and mentored new legal writing faculty and adjuncts
- Served as Acting Director of Legal Writing (fall 2006 and fall 2008)

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*Faculty Committee Service*

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Service Includes: Hybrid JD Program, Grading & Academic Standards, Bar Exam (chair), Curriculum, Strategic Planning, LLS Community, Safety, Professional Skills (chair), and Advocacy Teams

Special Appointment in 2020: Remote Proctoring Software & Exams

Served as Chair of Professional Skills overseeing renewal process for clinical faculty and review of clinical grant proposals

Faculty Advisor for the OWLS student organization (Older Wiser Law Students)

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*Academic Presentations & Speaking Engagements (listed separately)*

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## ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES** Los Angeles, California  
**Visiting Professor** Fall 2016

- Taught Remedies as a Visiting Professor on a coverage visit
- Earned high teaching evaluations

**WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL** Los Angeles and Irvine, California  
**Full-Time Legal Skills Instructor** August 1995 to May 1997  
**Part-Time Legal Skills Instructor** August 1994 to August 1995

## SELECTED PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

**PRIVATE PRACTICE** Los Angeles, California  
**Civil Litigation** February 1994 to December 1995

- Represented plaintiffs and defendants in pretrial and trial levels of civil litigation including business and contract disputes, real property, premises liability, intentional torts, and family law

**MCCLINTOCK, WESTON, BENSHOOF,  
ROCHFORT, RUBALCAVA & MacCUISEH** Los Angeles, California  
August 1991 to February 1994  
**Litigation Associate**

- Civil litigator with emphasis in environmental litigation, commercial litigation and franchise disputes
- Conducted jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations

**MILBANK, TWEED, HADLEY & McCLOY** Los Angeles, California  
**Summer Associate** Summer 1990

## SELECTED VOLUNTEER WORK ON THE BAR EXAM

- Supreme Court of California: member of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on the Future of the Bar Exam, including participation in the working group on the Portfolio Bar Exam (April 2021 to December 2023)
- As Invited:
  - Participant at IAALS (Institute for Advancement of the American Legal System) LicensureCon summit in 2023 on current licensing structures and non-exam licensure alternatives (November 2023)
  - Observer at State Bar of California grading calibration sessions
- State Bar of California: participant in Law School Assembly, Law School Council, and public comments (ongoing)

## SELECTED PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Currently: Pro bono representation of a veteran in civil matters related to criminal proceedings
- Previously: School Board Member, Magnolia Science Academy (parent representative at charter middle and high school) and pro bono representation of a small business (fitness industry) in transactional and litigation matters, including lease negotiations, LLC issues, vendor contracts, and worker's compensation insurance disputes

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

### **LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL**

Los Angeles, California

Juris Doctorate Degree, 1991

- Magna Cum Laude, Order of the Coif
- Loyola Law Review
- St. Thomas More Law Honor Society
- Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society
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### **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Northridge, California

Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration -- Marketing, 1986

- Summa Cum Laude and 4.0 G.P.A. in Marketing (on 4.0 scale)

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSE & MEMBERSHIPS

- Admitted to the California State Bar, 1991
- Law School Council, State Bar of California,
  - Chair 2020-21, Member 2019 to Present
- Legal Writing Institute and Association of Legal Writing Directors
- National Association of Law Student Affairs Professionals
- Association of Academic Support Educators
- Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers

## PUBLICATIONS

- W. Temm & S. Bakhshian, *Clearing the Last Hurdle: Mapping Success on the California Bar Exam*, Wolters Kluwer (2023) (2d edition)
- "As Release of Report on Alternative Path to Licensure Looms, Commissioners are at Odds Over the Process." Los Angeles Daily Journal, March 2023
- "Criticism of Non-Exam Pathway is Thinly Veiled Protectionism," co-authored with Stephanie Williams, Los Angeles Daily Journal, August 2022
- "Provisional License Program Promises More Than It Can Deliver," Los Angeles Daily Journal, September 9, 2020, reprinted at <http://summaryjudgments.lls.edu/>
- "It's Time to Replace the California Bar Exam," The Recorder, July 16, 2020, reprinted at <http://summaryjudgments.lls.edu/>
- "Announced Approach to Bar Exam 'Is Not Practical,'" The Recorder, July 17, 2020, reprinted at <http://summaryjudgments.lls.edu/>
- "Bar has Kept Out Fine Lawyers for No Reason," Daily Journal, August 16, 2017

## SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, forthcoming July 2024, “Ink & Bytes: Empowering Legal Writing with IT & Design”
- Empire State Regional Legal Writing Conference, Spring 2021, "Using Artificial Intelligence for Real Results in Peer Review Assignments (with Professor Tracy Norton)
- Central States Regional Legal Writing Conference, September 2019, “The Same but Different: Working with Psychologists to Learn about First Generation Law Students” (with Professor Jean Boylan)
- ALWD National Conference, May 2019, “Leading the Way: Using Low Stakes Techniques from Legal Writing for Assessment Across the Curriculum”
- Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2019, “Politics, Bias, & Rhetoric: The Art of Using Student Surveys”
- National Legal Writing Conference, July 2018, “Getting Students to the Finish Line: Perspectives on Bar Prep Classes, Strategies, & Materials to Prepare Students for the Bar Exam”
- Central States Legal Writing Conference, September 2017, “Less is More: Replacing or Reducing Traditional Comments on Drafts with Faster & Better Assessment Techniques”
- Academic Support Professionals Conference, May 2017, “Getting Inside Their Heads: How Fixed Mindset Explains Why Some Students Don’t Improve & Teaching Techniques to Change That”
- ALWD Conference, July 2017, “An Ill-Advised Line: Disparate Impact of the Changes to Bar Passage Standard 316”
- Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2017 and Central States Legal Writing Conference, September 2017, “Less is More: Replacing or Reducing Traditional Comments on Drafts with Faster and Better Assessment Techniques”
- Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2016, “Tidal Wave or Low Tide: The Role of Legal Writing Professors in Implementing the New ABA Assessment Mandate”
- National Legal Writing Conference, July 2016, “The Many Hats We Wear: A Technology-Enhanced Discussion about the Increased Role of Legal Writing & Skills Faculty in Law School Programs”
- West Coast Consortium of Academic Success Professionals, November 2015, “Build it and Make them Come: Required Classes & Curriculum for the At Risk Student”
- Central States Legal Writing Conference, September 2015 and Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2014, “Got 5 Minutes? Teach Grammar, Writing Mechanics, Professionalism & More”
- Academy of Academic Support Educators, National Conference, May 2014, “The First Domino: Teaching Note Taking”
- West Coast Consortium of Academic Success Professionals, November 2013, “No Credit, No Problem: Using Visuals to Teach Outlining & Essay Writing”
- Central States Legal Writing Conference, October 2013, “Critiquing our Critiques,” (co-presenters Professors Debby McGregor & Joel Schumm of Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis, and Professors Susan Bay & Alison Julien of Marquette Law School)
- Western States Regional Legal Writing Conference, August 2012 and Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, March 2012, “The Real Thing: Using Unedited Cases and Jury Instructions as Class Exercises”
- National Legal Writing Conference, June 2012, “Starting at the Finish Line: How to Revitalize Academic Success with an Integrated Program of Lawyering Skills and Bar Exam Skills”
- Central States Legal Writing Conference, September 2011 and Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, March 2011, “No Shirt, No Shoes, No Service: Interpreting the Academic Dress Code”
- Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2010, “Have your Power Point Slides Lost their Luster? Tone Up Your Slides to Teach Better”
- Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2009, and Empire State Legal Writing Conference May 2010, “Stop the Bleeding: Returning Legal Writing Assignments with Easy In-Class Exercises to Ease the Pain”
- Central States Legal Writing Conference, September 2009, “Heads I Win – Tails You Lose: How to Assign a Client in Persuasive Legal Writing Assignments”
- National Legal Writing Conference, July 2008, "Bar Exam Prep Courses: Legal Writing, Academic Support, Both, or Something Else"
- Central States Legal Writing Conference, October 2007, "Teaching Professionalism from Day One"
- Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2007, “New Tricks for Old Dogs”
- LWI Conference, July 2006, "Wave of the Future or Low Tide: Offering a Bar Exam Writing Course for Credit"
- Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, February 2006, "Too Much, Too Little or Just 'Write': What is the 'Right' Approach to Critiquing Student Drafts?"