

SARAH McCONNELL

Professor of Legal Practice ~ Roger Williams University School of Law
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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Roger Williams University School of Law

Professor of Legal Practice

Bristol, RI
July 2022–Present

Teach courses in both first-year and upper-level Legal Practice (legal research & writing), Civil Procedure I and II, Professional Responsibility, and Judicial Clerkships. Committee service: Assessments (Chair); Judicial Clerkships; Women's Bar; Admissions; Bar Success; and Academic Standards. Advise students on directed research projects meeting graduation writing requirement.

Adjunct Professor of Legal Practice

July 2021–June 2022

Teach first-year Legal Practice I & II as an adjunct faculty member.

SCHOLARSHIP

Law Review Articles

(Co-authored) *Paradoxical Pedagogy: Teaching Trauma-Informed Principles Within a System Built on Emotional Detachment*, 30 Roger Williams U. L. Rev. 311 (Spring 2025).

Educating Judges & Advancing Inclusion: The Evolution of Gendered Language in the U.S. Courts, 29 Roger Williams U. L. Rev. 86 (Fall 2023).

Other Publications

The Enduring Legacy of Legal Writing's Skills Revolution, Ass'n Am. L. Sch., Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2025, at 24-25.

Works in Progress

CrossFit Principles in Legal Academia: A Faculty Wellbeing Framework (in progress, funded research).

Observe and Scale: CrossFit Methodology in Legal Pedagogy and Formative Assessment (planned second article).

EDUCATION

University of Tulsa College of Law
Juris Doctorate

Tulsa, OK
May 1999

Certificates: Public Policy & Regulation; Resources, Energy & Environmental Law. *Activities & Honors:* Staff Editor, *Energy Law Journal*; Research Assistant, Professor William G. Hollingsworth; Delta Theta Phi Fraternity.

Rhode Island College
Bachelor of Arts
Majors: Political Science & Philosophy

Providence, RI
May 1996

PRESENTATIONS

AALS Section on Balance & Well-Being in Legal Education, Summer Speed Share Series, Promoting Mindfulness & Well-Being (June 5, 2025) ~ Panel Presentation, *From Personal Records to Personal Growth: A Faculty Wellbeing Framework*.

Massachusetts SJC Standing Committee on Lawyer Wellbeing, Second Annual Law School Wellbeing Summit (April 11, 2025) ~ Panel Presentation discussing wellbeing integration across law school curriculum.

Roger Williams University School of Law (November 20, 2024) ~ Faculty Development Presentation, *Work Smarter: Leveraging Generative AI Tools to Create In-Class Formative Assessments*.

AALS Annual Meeting (San Diego, January 2023) ~ Panel Presentation, *DEI Work in the Courtroom: Evolution of Gendered Language in the Courts*.

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Rhode Island Supreme Court
Opinion Analyst

Providence, RI
2017–2022

Edited all Court opinions prior to publication and advised justices and law clerks on drafting processes. Led Court's transition to remote collaboration during COVID-19 while maintaining publication schedules and quality standards.

Staff Attorney

2009–2017

Analyzed and screened cases across all areas of law, preparing comprehensive memoranda on complex legal matters. Researched diverse procedural and substantive questions requiring rapid mastery of unfamiliar legal concepts.

LaPlante Sowa Goldman
Litigation Associate

Providence, RI
2001-2003 & 2006-2007

Handled complex real estate and business transactions in both litigation and transactional settings. Managed cases involving land use, zoning, environmental, municipal, and education law from inception through completion.

Rhode Island Supreme Court
Law Clerk, Honorable Maureen McKenna Goldberg

Providence, RI
1999–2000

U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island
Summer Law Clerk, Magistrate Judge Robert W. Lovegreen

Providence, RI
1998

BAR ADMISSIONS

Rhode Island (1999)
District of Rhode Island (2000) (Inactive)
Massachusetts (2002) (Inactive)

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

CrossFit Level 1 Trainer: Certified fitness trainer with expertise in coaching and human performance development, bringing unique perspective to student mentoring and academic coaching. Currently studying for CrossFit Level 2 Certificate.

Small Business Operations: Co-founder and former operator of successful local family business, providing practical experience in entrepreneurship, client relations, and business management.