

LAURA E. D'AMATO

Lecturer

Boston University School of Law

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA

Lecturer (July 2017 – present)

Director, Lawyering Program (July 2022 – present) (two-year term)

Courses Taught

JD 602 Lawyering Skills 1 (July 2017 – present)

JD 603 Lawyering Skills 2 (July 2017 – present)

JD 607 Lawyering Lab (January 2018 – present)

JD 713 Persuasive Writing (Spring 2022 – present)

JD 986 Lawyering Fellows (Fall 2022 – present)

Teaching Awards

Dean's Teaching Award as member of Lawyering Skills faculty (May 2019)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Laura D'Amato, "*If it Learns Easy, it Taught Hard*" *Applying Lessons from Practice to the Lawyering Skills Classroom*, *The Second Draft* (Aug. 2022).

Presentations

Claire Abely, Laura D'Amato, and Kathy Luz, *Lawyering Lab: Incorporating Transactional Work into the IL Legal Research and Writing Curriculum*, LWI Conference, September 2020.

Marni Caputo and Laura D'Amato, *Podcasts & Court Visits: Engaging Students Through Exposure to Skills in Practice*, LWI One-Day Workshop, December 2018.

Law School Service Activities

Career Development Committee, co-chair (July 2021 – present)

Advisory (Strategic) Committee, member (July 2022 – present)

LLM Outcomes Committee, member (July 2022 – present)

JD Committee, member (July 2021 – present)

Academic Standards Committee, member (July 2020 – July 2021)

Discovering Justice Mock Trial Program, faculty advisor (Fall 2020)

Scholarship Retreat Planning Committee, member (Summer 2019)

Well-being Task Force, member (Sept. 2019 – present)

University Service Activities

Boston University Faculty Council, alternate representative (July 2019 – July 2021)

Professional Memberships

Legal Writing Institute, Pro Bono & Community Service and Bench and Bar Outreach Committees

Association of Legal Writing Directors

Boston University Questrom School of Business, Boston, MA

Adjunct Lecturer (January 2016 to May 2017)

Courses Taught

LA245 Introduction to Law (January 2016 – May 2017)

LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Goulston & Storrs PC, Boston, MA

Director (Partner) (April 2007 to July 2013)

Associate (September 1998 to March 2007)

Summer Associate (Summer 1997)

Practice Summary:

- Handled complex civil litigation practice with an emphasis on fiduciary (probate) litigation, employment disputes, professional malpractice claims, and business and real estate matters.
- Extensive experience managing all aspects of the litigation process, including lawsuit commencement, discovery, dispositive motion practice, trial, and appeal.
- Provided pre-litigation client counseling on employment matters, landlord/tenant disputes, and other complex business matters.
- Representative litigation matters:
 - Successfully argued in opposition to appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit regarding the applicability of ERISA's anti-alienation provision to pension benefits after disbursement.
 - Obtained defense verdict in jury trial against landowner sued for negligence and nuisance.
 - Obtained judgment in favor of heirs seeking to secure the proceeds of a lapsed gift and successfully represented clients in matters involving the interpretation and administration testamentary instruments.
 - Represented clients before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in employment discrimination claims.

Administrative Experience:

- Responsible for supervising, training, and mentoring junior attorneys, including as an appointed member of the Associate Development Committee and as an associate work allocator.
- Developed, coordinated, and taught internal professional development seminars for litigation associates on various topics relating to legal practice and professional responsibility.
- Taught external seminars on the ethics of social media, discovery strategies, and fiduciary litigation.
- Interviewed prospective candidates and participated in firm's summer associate program.
- Supervised and worked collaboratively with staff, paralegals, and junior attorneys on client matters, internal seminars, and pro bono programs, including firm-wide Day of Service.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Boston University School of Law, Office of Career Development and Public Service, Boston, MA

Assistant Director for the Private Sector (June 2015 to June 2017)

Visiting Attorney Advisor (August 2014 to May 2015)

- Provided individualized career counseling (resume and cover letter review, mock interviews, job search strategy and advice) across the public and private sectors to law students and alumni.
- Developed and presented professional development and career related programming for students.
- Conducted employer outreach to private law firms.

Scholastic Inc., New York, NY

Law Clerk (May 1996 to August 1996)

- Drafted confidentiality, consulting, and licensing agreements for legal department of large children's book publishing, education, and media company.
- Researched intellectual property issues and drafted cease and desist letters.

Contracts Assistant (August 1994 to August 1995)

- Created original, work-for-hire, and reprint agreements and managed contracts database.
- Drafted copyright notices for Scholastic publications.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

De Novo (formerly Community Legal Services and Counseling Center), Board of Directors, 2011-2017; Chair, Executive Director Search Committee, 2015; Strategic Planning Committee, 2018-2019

Boston Bar Association, Fiduciary Litigation Committee, Co-Chairperson, 2012-2013

Citizen Schools/Discovering Justice Legal Apprenticeship Program, Firm Coordinator and Advisor, 2001-2012

Lawyers Clearinghouse for Affordable Housing Legal Clinic, Firm Coordinator, 2009-2012

hopeFound, Inc., Board of Directors, 2009-2012

Greater Boston Legal Services, Associates Fund Drive Committee, 2003-2007

EDUCATION

Boston College Law School, Newton, MA

Juris Doctor, May 1998

Honors and Activities: Articles Editor, Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review; Class Representative, Boston College Law Students Association

Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and Political Science, May 1994

Honors and Activities: Awarded Fairfield University Academic Scholarship; Dean's List; Mission Volunteer to Oaxaca, Mexico; Women's Soccer; Resident Advisor