

Benjamin S. Halasz

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Experience

University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA

Associate Teaching Professor 2020 to Present

Lecturer 2015 to 2020

Part-Time Lecturer 2013, 2015

Classes Taught: Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing; Contracts; Persuasive Writing; Intensive Legal Writing Workshop; Federal Courts (Fall 2023); Sales. Mentored students in Advanced Legal Writing Projects.

Selected Internal Presentations: Externship Training Series, Foundational Legal Skills Training, Academic Support Series, and Clerkship Preparation Series programs.

Service Work: Member, Executive Committee (2021–present); Chair, Curriculum Committee (2020–2023); Law School Representative, UW Faculty Senate (2023–present). Clerkship Director (2016–2022); Member, Outcomes and Assessment Committee (2018–19); Member, Curriculum Committee (2018–20, 2023–present); Member, Various Ad Hoc Search Committees.

Pro Bono: Supervised U Visa case through Immigrant Families Advocacy Project (2017–18, 2022–23).

Foster Pepper PLLC, Seattle, WA

Staff Attorney, Litigation and Antitrust Departments 2013 to 2015

Conducted all stages of business litigation, including drafting appellate briefs, dispositive motions, discovery, and pleadings. Cases included class actions, government investigations, antitrust-conspiracy litigation, and supplier-purchaser litigation. Advised clients on litigation and antitrust exposure.

King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Seattle, WA

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Juvenile Division 2011 to 2012

Tried felony and misdemeanor cases, including for felony class-A and class-B violent offenses. Argued constitutional motions, probation revocations, and sentencing hearings. Reviewed evidence and made charging decisions.

Ropes & Gray LLP, Boston, MA

Associate, Litigation Department 2007 to 2011

Managed all aspects of civil and white-collar criminal cases. Cases involved investigations by the Department of Justice and state attorneys general, qui tam actions, securities litigation, and contract actions. Appellate experience included drafting briefs for the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Circuits as well as certiorari, merits, and amicus briefs for the U.S. Supreme Court. Pro bono work included litigating return of children kidnapped across international borders.

Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Cambridge, MA

Assistant District Attorney, Appeals Bureau 2006 to 2007

Drafted and argued briefs and motions before the Supreme Judicial Court, Court of Appeals, and Superior Court for misdemeanor and felony cases. Advised police officers during investigations.

Hon. Jerome F. Farris, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Seattle, WA

Law Clerk 2005 to 2006

Hon. Richard G. Stearns, United States District Court, Boston, MA
Law Clerk 2004 to 2005

Hon. Patti B. Saris, United States District Court, Boston, MA
Law Clerk 2003 to 2005

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, Boston, MA
Associate, Commercial Department; Summer Associate 2002 to 2003, Summer 2001
Worked on bankruptcy litigation, commercial transactions, and in-court and informal restructurings. Drafted litigation briefs and transactional documents.

Education

Harvard Law School, J.D., cum laude, 2002 Cambridge, MA

Activities:

International Arbitration Team, *Co-Captain*: Semifinalist at annual Vis Moot Competition in Vienna, Austria; Honorable Mentions for Best Oralist, Best Brief

International Law Journal

Crew Team

Spent summer in Kathmandu, Nepal, on fellowship for Human Rights Organization of Nepal

Dartmouth College, B.A., magna cum laude in Philosophy, 1999 Hanover, NH

Awards:

Phi Beta Kappa

Rufus Choate Scholar (top 5% for year)

Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence in Philosophy, Logic, Computer Science, Justice Theory, Ancient Philosophy, History of Physics, American Literature, Greek Archaeology, and Roman Archaeology

Activities:

Crew Team, Ultimate Frisbee Team

Student Manager of dining hall

Volunteer at Aquinas House Catholic Student Center

Studied abroad in Mainz, Germany, and Edinburgh, Scotland

Articles

Coach the Court: Writing Tips from the Bench (An Interview with Judge Rebecca Glasgow), 76 WASH. STATE BAR NEWS 20 (September 2022).

Write Introductions that Will Bedazzle Rather than Bore, 75 WASH. STATE BAR NEWS 22 (September 2021).

Strengthen Your Briefs: Argue Rules Before Comparisons, 75 WASH. STATE BAR NEWS 20 (February 2021).

To Write with Flow, Use the Old-to-New Connection, 74 NWLAWYER 24 (February 2020).

Bringing the Court into the Classroom: Suggestions for How to Craft Exercises for Upper-Level Courses Using Real Practitioners' Briefs, 27 PERSP.: TEACHING LEGAL RES. & WRITING 9 (2019).

Activate Your Prose with the Passive Voice, 73 NWLAWYER 16 (June 2019).

Presentations

Playing with a Purpose: Tips for Integrating New Games into the Classroom, presentation at the Western Regional Legal Writing Conference, August 26, 2023 (University of San Francisco, California)

Tips for Writing Persuasive Facts, CLE presentation to the Snohomish Defenders' Association, September 22, 2022 (Everett, Washington).

Strategies for Preparing, Arguing, and Winning your Appeal, CLE panel presentation, February 10, 2017 (Anchorage, Alaska).

Experiential Learning: Help or Hindrance to Innovation in the Upper-Level Writing Curriculum?, panel presentation at meeting of the American Association of Law Schools, January 5, 2017 (San Francisco, California).