

# David J.S. Ziff

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## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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### University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, Washington

<i>Teaching Professor</i>	2024–Present
<i>Associate Teaching Professor (Senior Lecturer)</i>	2016–2024
<i>Director of Legal Writing</i>	2017–2019
<i>Lecturer</i>	2012–2016

*Courses* Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing (A506); Washington Law Review Seminar (B597); Persuasive Writing (E508); Advanced Legal Writing: Motion Practice (B598); Introduction to Perspectives on the Law (A500)

*Honors* Philip A. Trautman Small Section Professor of the Year (2024, 2020, & 2013); Mary Whisner Award for Legal Writing (2025 as co-author, 2024); Richard O. Kummert Outstanding Contribution Award (2019); Commencement Faculty Speaker (2015); SCALE Faculty Award (2015)

*Service* *Professional:* Board Member, Joint Minority Mentorship Program (2024–present); Associate Editor, *Legal Communication & Rhetoric* (2024–present); Co-Chair, Programming Committee, Legal Writing Institute 2026 Conference (2024–26); Association of Legal Writing Directors, Publications Committee (Chair 2018–19; Member 2023–2025, 2017–18); Legal Writing Institute, Discipline Building Working Group (2024–present; 2018–22); WSBA Editorial Advisory Committee (2024–26)

*University of Washington:* Chair, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee (2023–25); School of Law Executive Council (2024–26); Executive Board Member, William L. Dwyer Inn of Court (2014–present); Undergraduate UW Mock Trial Adviser (2015–present); Public Interest Law Association Gala Host (2015–present)

*Previous (selected):* Faculty Appointments Committee (2022–23); Secretary of the Law School (2021–22); Intellectual Life Committee (2020–21); Strategic Planning Steering Committee (2019–20); Search Committee for Dean of Student and Career Services (2020); Co-Chair, Faculty Workshop Committee (2018–19); Search Committee for the School of Law’s Dean for Students (2019); William H. Gates Scholarship Finalist Reviewer (2019); Academic Success Committee (2017–18); Search Committee on the Deanship of the School of Law (2017–18); William H. Gates Scholarship Faculty Reader (2013–18); Moot Court Honor Board Faculty Adviser (2013–17)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### LAW REVIEWS AND PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

*Citation, Slavery, and the Law as Choice: Thoughts on Bluebook Rule 10.7.1(d)*, 101 N.C. L. Rev. F. 72 (2023)

*The Worst System of Citation Except for All the Others*, 66 J. Legal Educ. 668 (2017) (reviewing *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (Columbia Law Review Ass’n et al. eds., 20th ed. 2015))

*Dear Chief Justice Roberts: Please Tell Justice Scalia to Be Quiet*, 10 Legal Comm. & Rhetoric: JALWD 265 (2013) (reviewing Ryan A. Malphurs, *Rhetoric and Discourse in Supreme Court Oral Arguments: Sensemaking in Judicial Decisions* (2013))

*Fourth Amendment Limitations on the Execution of Computer Searches Conducted Pursuant to a Warrant*, 105 Colum. L. Rev. 841 (2005)

*Termination of Idiopathic Persistent Singultus (Hiccup) with Supra-Supramaximal Inspiration*, J. Emergency Med., Nov. 2004, at 416 (co-author)

## **PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

*Everything You Need to Know About the New Edition of the Bluebook*, Bar News, Oct 2025

*Designing Legal Writing Problems for the NextGeneration*, 5 Proceedings 12 (2025) (with Profs. Celebrezze, Sancken, Sanford, & Stephen)

*Math for Lawyers: The Importance of Counting to Five*, Bar News, June 2024

*Strategic Citations: Beyond the Bluebook*, ABA Litig. & Trial Practice Newsletter, Spring 2023

*When Precedent Lacks Power, Make the Judge Want to Decide in Your Favor*, Bar News, June 2023

*Say Goodbye to Bad Digital Presentations*, Bar News, June 2022

*From Anecdota to Data on Writing a Winning Brief*, Bar News, Dec. 2021

*Show Them the Way: Using Feedback to Improve Writing and Writers*, ABA Litig. Journal, Spring 2021

*Return on Investment*, Bar News, Oct. 2020, at 21–22

*Practical Citation*, NW Lawyer, Mar. 2020, at 20–21

*There Is No Such Thing as a “Bad” Case*, NW Lawyer, July-Aug. 2019, at 17–19

## **SELECTED POSTS AT ZIFF BLOG**

*Who Is Citing Slavery?* (Feb. 2, 2022)

*The Supreme Court at UW Law: State v. Escalante (Preview Part 1)* (Feb. 1, 2020)

*Six Suggestions for Improving The Bluebook* (Oct. 17, 2018)

*Stare Decisis and the Consubstantiality of the Washington Court of Appeals* (Jan. 26, 2018)

*Everybody Hates The Bluebook: An Example* (Nov. 10, 2016)

*Washington’s Prison Glitch and the Law of Carceral Take-Backs* (Dec. 29, 2015)

*The Chief Justice’s Brand of Textualism* (June 25, 2015)

*Alabama, Same-Sex Marriage, and the Variousness of Federal Law* (Feb. 11, 2015)

*Reflections from Cato: Halbig and the “Isolationist” Theory of Statutory Interpretation* (Nov. 3, 2014)

*Halbig, Statutory Interpretation, and Lessons I Learned in Practice* (July 29, 2014)

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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*Designing Legal Writing Problems for the NextGen-eration*, Western Regional Legal Writing Conference, Sept. 14, 2024 (Seattle, WA) (Co-Panelist)

*Summer Writing CLE: The Quick Fix*, Corr Cronin LLP, Sept. 18, 2024 (Seattle, WA)

*Is The Bluebook a Moral Document?*, Columbia Law Review, Feb. 12, 2024 (via Zoom) (New York, NY)

*Summer Writing CLE Part II: Persuasive Writing*, Corr Cronin LLP, Sept. 7, 2023 (Seattle, WA)

*Slavery, Citation, and The Bluebook*, Western Regional Legal Writing Conference, Aug. 26, 2023 (San Francisco, CA) (hosted by the University of San Francisco School of Law)

*Summer Writing CLE Part I: The Nitty Gritty*, Corr Cronin LLP, Aug. 17, 2023 (Seattle, WA)

*Summer Writing CLE*, Corr Cronin LLP, Sept. 6, 2022 (via Zoom) (Seattle, WA)

Justice G. Helen Whitener, *Personal Identity in Public Interest Law: How Me Becomes We*, University of Washington School of Law, Apr. 8, 2022 (via Zoom) (Seattle, WA) (Moderator & Interviewer)

*Improving Rule of Law Nationally and Locally*, William L. Dwyer Inn of Court, Feb. 8, 2022 (via Zoom) (Seattle, WA) (Co-Presenter)

*Editing as Teaching*, Washington Appellate Judicial Conference, Mar. 24, 2020 (via Zoom) (Chelan, WA)

*Legal Writing Workshop II*, The Washington State Bar Association, WSBA CLE Program, Feb. 27, 2020 (Seattle, WA) (with Destinee Evers)

*Best of Legal Writing and Technology*, Washington State Bar Association, WSBA CLE Program, Sept. 25, 2019 (Seattle, WA) (with Destinee Evers)

*Energizing Your Writing IV: The Medley*, The ACLU of Washington, Sept. 9, 2019 (Seattle, WA) (with Prof. Mimi Samuel)

*Creating Student Leaders*, Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference, Suffolk Law School, May 31, 2019 (Boston, MA)

*Legal Writing Workshop*, The Washington State Bar Association, WSBA CLE Program, Mar. 13, 2019 (Seattle, WA) (with Destinee Evers)

*Reading Like a Lawyer & Class Simulation*, Foundations for Legal Study, University of Washington School of Law, Sept. 18, 2018 (Seattle, WA)

Moderator, *A Conversation with the LWI Discipline-Building Working Group*, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Marquette Law School, July 14, 2018 (Milwaukee, WI)

*Energizing Your Writing III: The Big Picture*, The ACLU of Washington, July 10, 2018 (Seattle, WA) (with Prof. Mimi Samuel)

*Theory, Theme, and Narrative*, Beyond the Law: Persuading Appellate Judges that Your Client Deserves to Win, Washington State Office of Public Defense, June 28, 2018 (Leavenworth, WA)

*Writing Workshop*, FOCAL, PLLC, Aug. 22, 2017 (Seattle, WA)

*Energizing Your Writing II: The Re-Energizing*, The ACLU of Washington, June 28, 2017 (Seattle, WA) (with Prof. Mimi Samuel)

*Seattle Think & Drink: Presidential Power*, Humanities Washington and KUOW, Mar. 28, 2017 (Seattle, WA) (with Prof. Lisa Manheim)

*Superior Court, Supreme Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals: A Conversation with Judge Morgan Christen*, University of Washington School of Law Second Friday CLE in Alaska, Oct. 14, 2016 (Anchorage, AK)

*Three Inns Meeting: Technology & Access to Justice in Washington*, William L. Dwyer Inn of Court, Seattle University School of Law, Oct. 5, 2016 (Seattle, WA) (with Judge Beth Andrus)

*Energizing Your Writing*, The ACLU of Washington, June 29, 2016 (Seattle, WA) (with Prof. Mimi Samuel)

*Judging Statutes: A Conversation with Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann*, University of Washington School of Law, Apr. 18, 2016 (Seattle, WA)

Moderator, *The Supreme Court in the Shadow of the 2016 Election*, The Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Washington, Dec. 9, 2015 (Seattle, WA)

*Legal Writing for Tax LLM Students*, University of Washington School of Law, Nov. 17, 2015 (Seattle, WA)

*Let's Talk About Sexism in the Legal Profession*, William L. Dwyer Inn of Court, Seattle University School of Law, Sept. 8, 2015 (Seattle, WA)

*Introduction to Civil Litigation*, Foundations for Legal Study, University of Washington School of Law, Sept. 16, 2015 (Seattle, WA)

*The Language of the Law: Reading Like a Lawyer*, Foundations for Legal Study, University of Washington School of Law, Sep. 16, 2015 (Seattle, WA)

*Legal Storytelling and Statutory Interpretation: An Examination of the Rhetoric and Narrative in King v. Burwell*, Legal Writing Institute, Fifth Biennial Conference on Applied Legal Storytelling, July 22, 2015 (Seattle, WA)

Panelist, *King v. Burwell: Obamacare in the Supreme Court (Again)*, University of Washington School of Law, Mar. 11, 2015 (Seattle, WA)

Panelist, *What Is the Law, and on Which Side Is the IRS?*, Cato Institute, *Pruitt, Halbig, King & Indiana: Is ObamaCare Once Again Headed to the Supreme Court?*, Oct. 30, 2014 (Washington, DC)

*Legal Writing for Tax LLM Students*, University of Washington School of Law, Oct. 7, 2014 (Seattle, WA)

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## EDUCATION

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**Columbia University School of Law**, New York, NY, J.D., 2005

*Honors:* James Kent Scholar (outstanding academic achievement)  
Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar (superior academic achievement)

*Activities:* Executive Managing Editor, *Columbia Law Review*, Vols. 104–105  
Staff, *Columbia Law Review*, Vols. 103–104  
Symposium Co-Coordinator, *Sentencing: What's at Stake for the States?*  
Research Assistant, Modern Remedies with Professor Catherine Sharkey  
Teaching Assistant, Civil Procedure with Professor Samuel Issacharoff  
IMPACT 2004 (voting rights organization)  
Civilian Oversight of the Police Project

**Brown University**, Providence, RI, *Mathematics A.B. & Economics A.B.*, 2000

*Activities:* Coordinator and Counselor, Resident Counselor Program  
Parliamentarian and Representative, Undergraduate Council of Students  
President, Brown University Mock Trial Team

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## CLERKSHIPS

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**Chief Judge Dennis Jacobs** 2006–2007  
United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

**Judge Gerard E. Lynch** 2005–2006  
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**McNaul Ebel Nawrot & Helgren PLLC**, Seattle, Washington 2009–2012  
*Associate*

Managed a variety complex civil cases, including partnership disputes, employment disputes, commercial contract disputes, and discrimination claims. Argued motions in Superior Court, including motions for preliminary injunction and summary judgment. Conducted and defended depositions of lay witnesses and experts in numerous cases. Researched and drafted motions and pleadings.

**Brune & Richard LLP**, New York, New York 2007–2009  
*Associate*

*Criminal Litigation:* Drafted and presented submissions to the United States Attorney's Office, the SEC, and FINRA. Prepared client, in coordination with the Assistant District Attorney, to testify in a murder prosecution. Advocated for reduction in client's sentence following guilty plea. Researched and

drafted numerous memoranda regarding a wide range of issues, including loss calculation at sentencing, statutes of limitations, and materiality in connection with securities fraud prosecutions.

*Civil Litigation Experience:* Conducted and defended numerous depositions in a \$3 million contract litigation. Argued summary judgment motion in federal district court on behalf of plaintiffs in a fraud and contract action. Researched and drafted numerous pleadings and briefs, including a motion for summary judgment based on the jurisdictional limitation of the Hobbs Act, an opposition to a motion to dismiss a California arbitration, and motions in limine.

**The Bronx Defenders**, Bronx, New York  
*Charles Evans Hughes Fellow, Intern*

Summer 2004

Worked with two senior attorneys in a community-based public defender's office. Represented client in misdemeanor arraignment. Participated in client interviews. Researched and drafted brief arguing that New York's discretionary sentencing enhancement for recidivist offenders is unconstitutional under *Blakely v. Washington*. Researched and drafted memorandum on the admissibility of 911 recordings against criminal defendants under *Crawford v. Washington*.

**U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York**, New York, New York  
*Lloyd F. MacMahon Fellow, Intern*  
*Criminal Division, General Crimes Unit*

Summer 2003

Participated in the preparation of witnesses for suppression hearing. Researched and drafted memoranda on search and seizure law, the constitutionality of federal statutes, and admissibility of evidence. Attended numerous interviews with defendants, suspects, and informants.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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Raised in Minnetonka, Minnesota. Admitted to practice in Washington State and New York State (resigned). Fan of the Minnesota Twins, British murder mysteries, and the birds in my backyard.