

# Kirsten E. Williams

25 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604 | kwill256@depaul.edu

## EDUCATION

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**University of Houston Law Center**, Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, May 2022

Activities: Chief Articles Editor, *Houston Law Review*  
Research Assistant, Environmental Law Professor Tracy Hester  
Participant, Appellate Civil Rights Clinic  
Tutor, Constitutional Law (2021) and Legal Writing (2020–2021)

Honors: Order of the Coif  
Highest Grade in Federal Courts (Spring 2022, Professor Sapna Kumar)  
First Place, John Black Moot Court Competition (2020)  
Quarterfinalist and No. 3 Brief, National Online Moot Court Competition (2021)

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Bachelor of Science in Journalism, May 2015

Activities: Copy Editor, *The Daily Illini* (2011–2015)  
Piccolo Player & Section Leader, Marching Illini (2011–2015)

Study Abroad: Language Immersion Program, Granada, Spain (Spring 2014)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**DePaul University College of Law**, Chicago, IL

*Assistant Director, Legal Analysis, Research, and Communication (LARC) Program and Instructor of LARC I and II*, July 2026–Present

- Appointed by Dean to assistant direct the LARC Program.
- Teach the required first-year legal writing curriculum to law students, emphasizing analytical precision and professional judgment.
- Guide students in preparing legally accurate, fact-driven, and ethically responsible memoranda and trial briefs.
- Develop students' skills in clear, persuasive writing, objective legal analysis, and efficient legal research.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Esbroom P.C.**, Chicago, IL

*Associate*, April 2024–June 2026

- Examined nine lay and expert witnesses as second-chair plaintiff's counsel during a seven-day wrongful death jury trial in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, securing a verdict on the survivorship claim.
- Conducted direct examination of a key witness during a weeklong breach of contract jury trial in the Circuit Court of Cook County.
- Drafted pretrial motions, including *Daubert*, *in limine*, spoliation, and dispositive motions.
- Assisted in drafting an opposition brief that successfully defeated the federal government's motion to dismiss a Federal Tort Claims Act claim challenging violations arising from the federal government's family separation policy.
- Developed a comprehensive slide deck illustrating the opposing party's theory of the case for a mock-jury exercise.

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- Collaborated across litigation teams to manage competing priorities, meet court deadlines, and ensure effective case development.

## **Katten & Temple, LLP, Chicago, IL**

*Associate, October 2023–April 2024*

- Represented plaintiffs and defendants in commercial, constitutional, and property disputes in state and federal courts.
- Conducted legal research and analysis on various litigation issues and prepared complaints, responsive pleadings, discovery requests, and dispositive and non-dispositive motions.
- Appeared in court for status conferences.

## **United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Galveston, TX**

*Term Law Clerk to Magistrate Judge Andrew M. Edison, September 2022–September 2023*

- Drafted orders and recommendations addressing motions to dismiss and for summary judgment on various federal question and state causes of action, including breach of contract, § 1983 claims, employment and disability discrimination, and ERISA.
- Reviewed briefing related to discovery disputes and determined proper resolution.

## **Office of Immigration Litigation–Appellate Section, Washington, DC**

*Department of Justice Summer Law Intern Program, June–July 2021*

- Wrote an appellate brief filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, asking the court to uphold the immigration judge’s determination that a noncitizen did not qualify for asylum.
- Wrote an appellate brief filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, asking the court to uphold the Board of Immigration Appeals’ decision denying a noncitizen’s motion to reconsider her asylum application.
- Participated in a moot court oral argument before the director of the Appellate Section and other senior trial attorneys.

## **United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston, TX**

*Judicial Intern to Judge Lee H. Rosenthal, January–April 2021*

- Prepared decision considering a motion to dismiss on an employment discrimination claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Drafted decision addressing a motion to dismiss on a claim under Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Prepared decision considering a motion for summary judgment of a products liability action.
- Composed memorandum and order denying inmate’s motion for compassionate release.

## **United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Texas, Houston, TX**

*Volunteer Law Clerk, Appellate Division, May–August 2020*

- Composed a research memorandum concerning whether a co-conspirator can be considered a victim under § 2B3.1(c)(1) of the U.S. Sentencing Commission’s Guidelines Manual.
- Drafted a section of an appellate brief concerning whether the dates of receipt of child pornography constituted a material variance from the dates alleged in the indictment.

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- Wrote responses to petitions for writs of habeas corpus and a motion for an extension on a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 motion.

## **Houstonia Magazine, Inc.**, Houston, TX

*Contributing Writer*, October 2018–May 2019

- Wrote stories primarily for the lifestyle section of the *Houstonia* website.
- Interviewed local officials, business owners, and residents as sources for assigned stories.

## **Human Kinetics, Inc.**, Champaign, IL

*Managing Editor*, October 2016–August 2018

- Oversaw production of textbooks and nonprint products through the final stages of publication.
- Managed budgets of \$30,000–\$90,000 by communicating with editors, artists, and graphic designers.
- Edited textbooks, ebooks, and ancillary teaching materials for accuracy, consistency, and style.

## **22nd Century Media**, Northbrook, IL

*Editor, Copy Editor, Assistant Editor*, August 2015–September 2016

- Wrote and photographed three to four news and feature stories per week for a community newspaper.
- Managed a team of five to ten freelancers and compiled stories into a forty-eight-page layout.

## **The Seattle Times**, Seattle, WA

*Copy Editing Intern*, June–August 2015

- Edited approximately five to six pages of copy each day for the front, local, business, and features sections in the print newspaper.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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Articles: *The Impact of Foresight: Reframing Discriminatory Intent to Properly Remedy Environmental Racism*, 59 HOUS. L. REV. 1231 (2022) (third-place recipient of 2022 Brown Award for Excellence in Legal Writing)

Books: *Greenhouse Gas Removal*, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION LAW (2d ed. 2022)

## **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Houston Law Center**, Houston, TX

*Research Assistant to Professor Tracy Hester*, September 2021–May 2022

- Researched greenhouse gas removal techniques.
- Wrote a book chapter explaining these techniques and their place in the international law framework.

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## University of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX

*Legal Writing Fellow*, August 2020–May 2021

- Created and presented workshops to help law students improve their legal writing skills.
- Met with students individually to discuss effective legal writing strategies.
- Published *Cougar Clause* newsletter to provide helpful writing tips to students.

## University of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX

*Teaching Assistant to Professor Seth Chandler, Constitutional Law*, January–May 2021

- Prepared and presented monthly reviews to help students understand course topics.
- Reviewed and provided feedback to student draft answers to exam hypotheticals.
- Tutored students on course topics and learning objectives.

## University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

*Teaching Assistant to Professor Jennifer Follis, Introduction to Journalism*, 2013–2015

- Reviewed and provided feedback to student draft article assignments.
- Tutored students on effective writing strategies for print news publications.
- Graded student assignments and provided comments to foster improvement.

## PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

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- *Bridging the Feedback Gap: Preparing Junior Associates for Feedback in Practice*, Central States Legal Writing Conference (September 2025)
- *Practicing Law: Expectations vs. Reality*, Lone Star Regional Legal Writing Conference (April 2024)
- *Trading Legalese for “Oh, Yes Please!”: How to Train ILs to Embrace Conversational Writing*, Central States Legal Writing Conference (September 2023)
- *From Journalist to Lawyer: How Editing Always Makes the Difference*, Lone Star Regional Legal Writing Conference (April 2023)
- *Self-Reflection for ILs*, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop at Seattle University School of Law (December 2022)
- Panelist, *Perspectives on Judicial Clerkships*, *Houston Law Review* (February 2022)

## SERVICE

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- Volunteer Editor, Momentum Education 2020–2025
- Volunteer Kennel Socializer, West Suburban Humane Society 2024–2025
- Volunteer Caretaker, Wildlife Center of Texas 2020–2022
- Volunteer Kennel Socializer, Houston SPCA 2020–2022
- Emerging Community Leader, United Way of Champaign County 2017
- Volunteer Kennel Socializer, Champaign County Humane Society 2016–2018
- Volunteer Flute Instructor, Play On Music School 2016
- ConvoPartner Volunteer, University of Illinois Intensive English Institute 2014–2015

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## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

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- Third-Place Recipient of *Brown Award for Excellence in Legal Writing*, Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation (2022)
- *Joan Garfinkel Glantz Scholarship* (awarded to the best paper in the area of civil liberties), University of Houston Law Center (2022)
- *Murray M. Nusynowitz Memorial Award* (awarded to a law student who is active in the recruitment and admissions process), University of Houston Law Center (2021)
- Quarterfinalist and No. 3 Brief in *National Online Moot Court Competition* (2021)
- First Place in *John Black Moot Court Competition*, University of Houston Law Center (2020)

## **BAR ADMISSION**

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- State Bar of Texas (October 2022)
- State Bar of Illinois (July 2023)

## **INTERESTS**

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- Proud rescue-dog owner, passionate conservationist, fitness enthusiast, avid home cook