

AMANDA L. SHOLTIS

Office: (717) 541-3946 ▪ alsholtis@widener.edu ▪ Cell: (717) 461-3219

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Widener University Commonwealth Law School

Harrisburg, PA

Associate Professor of Law (tenure track)	2025 – present
Assistant Professor of Law (tenure track)	2022 - 2025
Professor of Legal Methods (presumptively-renewable contract)	2013 – 2022
Associate Professor of Legal Methods (long-term contract)	2011 – 2013
Legal Methods Professor (short-term contract)	2006 – 2011

- Equip students with skills in critical thinking, analysis, writing, oral communication, and research
- Evaluate students using multiple formative and summative assessments

Courses: Legal Methods I (objective writing); Legal Methods II (persuasive writing); Legal Methods III: Judicial Opinion Writing; Legal Methods III: Advanced Appellate Advocacy; Legal Methods in Trial Admissions Program (objective writing)

Service: Faculty advisor to first-year students and the Women's Law Caucus (2007 – present)
Scholarship Grant Committee for the Association for Legal Writing Directors/Legal Writing Institute/LexisNexis (2022 – present)
Planning Committee for Judicial Clerkship College hosted by the Legal Writing Institute & Wake Forest Law (2023 – present)
Founding advisor to the WIDENER JOURNAL FOR LAW, ECONOMICS, AND RACE (2007 – 2014)

Assistant Director, Legal Methods Program

2024 – present

- Develop legal research and writing curriculum for three-semester legal writing program
- Oversee full-time and adjunct professors in course delivery
- Train Academic Success Fellows (tutors) for all Legal Methods I courses

Director, Academic Success Program

2013 – 2024

- Developed courses and workshops on study skills and exam preparation
- Assessed and addressed individual academic challenges with students in Regular and Extended Division Programs
- Assisted faculty in incorporating academic support into courses

Courses: Introduction to Legal Process, Intensive Legal Analysis,
Legal Methods III: Advanced Legal Analysis

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

*Admitted to practice in state and federal courts in Pennsylvania
and the United States Supreme Court*

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General

Harrisburg, PA

Deputy Attorney General

2002 – 2006

- Practiced trial and appellate litigation in the areas of civil rights and employment discrimination

Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Conshohocken, PA

Law Clerk to Madame Justice Sandra Schultz Newman

2000 – 2002

- Drafted bench memoranda and judicial opinions focused on death penalty and post-conviction relief cases

EDUCATION

Dickinson School of Law, Pennsylvania State University

J.D., *magna cum laude*

Carlisle, PA

2000

- Published comment analyzing constitutionality of drug testing in high schools under the state constitution at 104 DICK. L. REV. 379 (2000)
- Honed writing and analysis skills as judicial intern for the Honorable J. Andrew Smyser, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and legal intern with the Office of Chief Counsel for the Pennsylvania's Department of Education
- Served as Case Note Editor for DICKINSON LAW REVIEW
- Competed as member of National Appellate Moot Court Team on Fifth Amendment case

Grove City College

B.A. in English, *magna cum laude*

Grove City, PA

1997

- Marquette (Marching Band Dance Line)
- President, Gamma Sigma Phi Social Sorority

SCHOLARSHIP

Awards

- Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award (2020)
- Research Grant Award, Legal Writing Institute/Association of Legal Writing Directors (2010 & 2017)

Works

Medium Matters in Preparing for Law Practice: Critical e-Reading, [63 DUQ. L. REV. 361 \(Summer 2025\)](#)

Say What?: A How-to Guide to Providing Formative Assessment to Law Students Through Live Critique, [49 STET. L. REV. 1 \(Fall 2019\)](#)

Best Practices in Legal Education: How Live Critiquing and Cooperative Work Lead to Happy Students and Happy Professors, [29:2 THE SECOND DRAFT 7 \(2016\) \(co-author\)](#)

A Technological Trifecta: Using Videos, Playlists, and Facebook in Law School Classes to Reach Today's Students, [40 RUTGERS COMPUTER & TECH. L.J. 1 \(2014\) \(co-author\)](#)

Blogging: Reflection Spurs Students Forward, [THE LAW TCHR., \(Inst. For L. Sch. Teaching, Washburn and Gonz. U.\) Spring 2013, at 34](#)

Preparing for Practice from Behind the Bench: Opinion Writing as the "Heart and Soul" of the First Semester of Legal Writing, [18 J. LEGAL WRITING INST. 263 \(2012\)](#)

Why I Teach, [THE LAW TCHR., \(Inst. For L. Sch. Teaching, Washburn and Gonz. U.\) Spring 2009, at 19, reprinted in GERRY F. HESS, STEVEN I. FRIEDLAND, MICHAEL HUNTER SCHWARTZ, AND SOPHIE SPARROW, TECHNIQUES FOR TEACHING LAW II at 325 \(Carolina Academic Press 2011\)](#)

PRESENTATIONS

Critical e-Reading Strategies for Law Review Staff, 2025 National Conference for Law Review Editors hosted by Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers (April 6, 2025) (Virtual)

Medium Matters in Preparing for Law Practice: Critical e-Reading, Duquesne Law Review's 2025 Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA (March 28, 2025)

Thriving as a Digital Reader, Widener University's Wolfgram Memorial Library Series (March 19, 2025 & March 20, 2025) (Virtual)

Medium Matters: Equipping Legal Masters Students with e-Reading Skills, 2025 Legal Masters Conference, San Antonio, TX (March 12, 2025) (co-presenter)

Strategies for Enhancing Your Critical e-Reading Skills, Pennsylvania Bar Institute's CLE Program (January 28, 2025) (Live Webcast)

Medium Matters for Student Learning: Equipping Students with e-Reading Skills, The Provost Scholarship Hour: Innovations for Student Success, Widener University (November 7, 2024) (Virtual)

Finding Synchronicity Between Thoughtful Hybrid Pedagogy and a Hybrid Professional World, Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy: Toward Defining Best Practices in Legal Education Conference, Denver, CO (September 2024) (panelist)

Post-Pandemic Lawyering: Critical e-Reading, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Indianapolis, IN (July 2024) (co-presenter)

Medium Matters in Preparing for Law Practice: Critical e-Reading, Legal Writing Institute's Sirico Scholars Workshop, Indianapolis, IN (July 2024)

In-Class Critiques: A Win-Win Situation for Students and Professors, Empire State Legal Writing Conference, New York, NY (May 2024) (co-presenter)

Diverse Voices in the Classroom: Beautiful Music or Horrible Noise? Widener University Commonwealth Law School Dean's Diversity Forum, Harrisburg, PA (March 2024)

All Hands on Deck: Incorporating Instruction on Critical E-Reading Across the Law School Curriculum, Institute for Law Teaching and Learning's Works-in-Progress Workshop, Sacramento, CA (May 2023)

The Need for Speed: Preparing Students for Oral Argument with Speed Questioning, Association of Legal Writing Directors' Innovative Teaching Workshop, Washington, D.C. (July 2022)

Connecting with Students in the Pandemic and Post-Pandemic World, Widener University's Faculty Development Day, (August 2021) (Virtual)

The Big Reveal: Clear, Complete, & Concise Legal Writing, Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE Program (May 2021) (co-presenter) (Live Webcast)

How to Receive and Give Feedback on Writing in Practice, Widener University Commonwealth Law School's Alumni Weekend CLE, Harrisburg, PA (September 2019)

How to Use Feedback to Become a Better Lawyer, Pennsylvania Office of General Counsel's Effective Writing Course, Harrisburg, PA (June 2019)

We Need to Talk: Providing Formative Assessment Through Live Critique, Institute for Law Teaching and Learning's Annual Conference, Topeka, KS (June 2019)

Carrots & Sticks: Motivating Students Without Grading Everything They Do, New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers Annual Conference, Portland, ME (May 2019) (co-presenter)

Practice-Ready Millennials: Technology Training for Efficient and Effective Communication, Duquesne University School of Law's Artificial Intelligence Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (April 2019) (co-presenter)

We Need to Talk: The Benefits of Live Critique in Writing-Intensive Courses, Widener University's High-Impact Educational Practices Fair, Chester, PA (March 2019) (co-presenter with law student)

Practice-Ready Millennials: Technology Training for Efficient and Effective Communication, Southeastern Regional Legal Writing Conference, Atlanta, GA (April 2018) (co-presenter)

Rubrics and Checklists and Frameworks – Oh My! Southeastern Association of Law Schools' Annual Conference, Boca Raton, FL (August 2017) (co-presenter)

Say What?: A How-to Guide on Providing Formative Assessment to Law Students Through Live Critique, Mid-Atlantic Junior Faculty Forum, Richmond, VA (May 2017)

Best Practices in Formative Assessment: No Red Pens Required, Association of Academic Support Educator's Annual Conference, New York, NY (May 2016) (co-presenter)

May It Please the Court & Your Students: Using Animation and Speed Questioning to Prepare Students for Their First Oral Arguments, Legal Writing Institute's One-Day Conference on the Modern Legal Writing Classroom, Miami, FL (December 2014) (co-presenter)

Judge for Yourself: Designing a Judicial Writing Course, Legal Writing Institute's Biennial Conference, Philadelphia, PA (July 2014) (co-presenter)

Mission Impossible or Mission Accomplished? Our First Year Without the Traditional Office Memo, Legal Writing Institute's One-Day Conference, Boston, MA (December 2013) (co-presenter)

Everything Old is New Again: Student Journaling as Blogging, The Third Colonial Frontier Legal Writing Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (March 2013)

Keeping It Fresh: Using Technology in the Legal Writing Classroom to Reach Today's Students, The Third Colonial Frontier Legal Writing Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (March 2013) (co-presenter)

Preparing for Practice from Behind the Bench: Replacing the Traditional Office Memorandum with a Judicial Opinion, Legal Writing Institute's One-Day Conference, Washington, D.C. (Nov. 2012)

Team-Based Learning, Legal Writing Institute's One-Day Conference, Washington, D.C. (Nov. 2012) (co-presenter)

Preparing for Practice from Behind the Bench: Replacing the Traditional Office Memorandum with a Judicial Opinion, Legal Writing Institute's Biennial Conference, Desert Springs, CA (June 2012)

Adding Collaborative and Formative Feedback Opportunities to Your Classes: How Grading by Design and Working Together Save the Day, Institute for Law Teaching and Learning's Summer Conference, New York, NY (June 2011) (co-presenter)

Assessing Collaboration: "Misery Loves Company" or "There Is No I in Team?" Legal Writing Institute's Biennial Conference, Marco Island, FL (June 2010) (co-presenter)

Engaging, Entertaining, and Effective: Using Handheld Response Pads in the Legal Methods Classroom, Legal Writing Institute's Biennial Conference, Indianapolis, IN (July 2008) (co-presenter)

BLOG POSTS

Contributing Author, Appellate Advocacy Blog (Law Professor's Blog Network) (2019)

[*Reimagining Advocacy Conference*](#) (August 13, 2019)

[*Finishing Touches: Editing Descriptions of the Law for Persuasion*](#) (July 16, 2019)

[*Brief Writing: Where Do I Even Begin?*](#) (July 2, 2019)

[*How to Use Feedback to Become a Better Writer*](#) (June 4, 2019)

[*Practice Kindness*](#) (May 22, 2019)

[*Artificial Intelligence for the Brief Writer*](#) (May 7, 2019)

[*Speed Questioning Builds Students' Confidence for Oral Argument*](#) (April 23, 2019)

[*A "Writer's Toolbox" Part II: Idea Journal, Writing Bank, and Tech Tools*](#) (April 9, 2019)

[*A "Writer's Toolbox" Part I: A Practical Writing Library*](#) (March 12, 2019)

Let's Get Ready to Rumble: How to Win a "Battle of the Rules" Argument (February 26, 2019) (no longer available online)

Appellate Advocacy 101: On the Basis of Sex (February 12, 2019) (no longer available online)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania – Volunteer (2015 – present)

Family Grace (support group for those with loved ones experiencing mental health challenges) – Organizer & Weekly Meeting Facilitator (2024 - present)

DivorceCare and Single & Parenting Support Groups at Daybreak Church - Founding Leader/Facilitator (2009 – 2024)

Construction/Rebuilding Service Trips to Huaticocha, Ecuador (2015) and Biloxi, Mississippi (2010)