

# CARA R. SHAFFER

University of Colorado Law School  
430 Wolf Law Building  
Boulder, Co 80309

cara.shaffer@gmail.com

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- **THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL**, Boulder, CO 2024- present  
*Associate Teaching Professor*
  - Taught Legal Writing I & II
- **SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW HOUSTON**, Austin, TX 2020- 2024  
*Director, Legal Writing Center*
  - Taught Advanced Legal Writing for Practice (Summer 2023); Introduction to Legal Studies (Fall 2023).
  - Developed new legal writing center
  - Designed comprehensive workshop programming for students on legal and academic writing
  - Hired, trained, and mentored legal writing staff attorneys
  - Taught workshops for law review editors on standards of academic writing
  - Collaborated and coordinated with multiple stakeholders, including writing faculty and alumni
  - Developed metrics and tracked data to assess center success
  - Presented nationally on legal writing pedagogy and scholarship
- **THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS UNDERGRADUATE MOCK TRIAL TEAM**, Austin Tx 2018-2022  
*Head Coach, volunteer position*
  - Coached undergraduate students from a 164<sup>th</sup> national ranking to a top ten ranking

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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- **THE CLOUTHIER LAW FIRM**, The Woodlands, TX Summer 2023  
*Contract Appellate Attorney*
  - Researched and drafted state and federal criminal appeals
- **BOWMAN AND BROOKE LLP**, Austin, TX 2018- 2019  
*Litigation Associate*
  - Defended clients in complex litigation
  - Conducted research assignments on complex issues related to product liability litigation
  - Drafted memoranda, motions, and briefs; drafted responses to discovery requests
- **HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**, Houston, TX Summer 2017  
*Law Clerk*
  - Drafted briefs in support of civil matters, including eminent domain, employment, and public health law
  - Researched and analyzed case and statutory law related to public gambling laws
- **THIRD COURT OF APPEALS, CHIEF JUSTICE JEFF ROSE**, Austin, TX Fall 2016  
*Law Clerk*
  - Researched and drafted internal memoranda concerning contracts and personal injury issues
- **TRAVIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**, Austin, TX Summer 2016  
*Law Clerk*
  - Prepared memoranda and aided in drafting state's appellate briefs for Class A Misdemeanors
- **U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, Court of The Honorable Lee Yeakel**, Austin, TX

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## *Judicial Intern*

Summer 2012

- Created pre-sentencing reports, filed court records, and attended court and judicial hearings
- **THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, DEPT. OF ENGLISH**, Austin, TX 2013  
*Research Associate for Professor Douglas Bruster*
  - Researched and wrote passages for the *Riverside Shakespeare*

## EDUCATION

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW**, Austin, TX

J.D., May 2018

*Activities:* Texas Intellectual Property Law Journal, Articles Editor  
University of Texas School of Law Gardere Mock Trial Tournament Champion

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**, Austin, TX

B.S. with high honors in Radio-Television-Film, May 2014

B.A. with high honors in English, May 2014

*Honors:* Phi Beta Kappa  
Liberal Arts College Scholar  
Janet Guthrie Andrews Endowed Research Grant

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & ACADEMIC WORK

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- *Radical Embrace of AI in the Classroom: Three Ideas from a Skeptic*, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference Presentation, Spring 2025.
- Volunteer Deputy Editor, ABA Section of International Law Year in Review (2024).
- *Legal Writing Centers: Supporting Student & Professor Well-being in the Post-Pandemic Era*, 2024 Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, panel organizer & presenter (July 2024).
- *Context at the Periphery: The Rise of the Critical-Contextual Legal Education Reform Movement*, 30 CARDOZO J. OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND SOC. JUSTICE 1, 55 (2023).
- *Professionalism in Legal Writing*, Houston Young Lawyer's Association Summer Associate, Intern, and Law Clerk Summit, Invited Speaker, Summer 2023.
- *The Bad and the Ugly: Using Weak Writing to Create Strong Editors*, Western Regional Legal Writing Conference Presentation, Fall 2022.
- *Clarity, Persuasion, Style: 10 Tips to Improve Legal Writing Based on Psychology*, CLE Presentation, Fall 2021.
- *Early Warning Systems: The Case for Written Diagnostics as a Tool for Scaffolding*, THE SECOND DRAFT: THE LEG. WRITING INST. (Spring 2021).
- *Guest Lecturer*
  - *Seminar Paper Writing, Race & The Law*, Fall 2023, Spring 2024
  - *Seminar Paper Writing, The Criminal Justice System*, Fall 2023
  - *Rhetoric & Grammar Review, Veteran Law* Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2023

## SERVICE

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- **THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO**
  - Member, Admissions Committee: worked with the admissions team to review weekly applications of prospective law school applicants

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- **HOUSTON YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**
  - Speaker, Houston Young Lawyers Association Law Student Summit (2023)
  - Member, Signature Events Committee (2020-2021)
  - Member, Leadership Academy Donations Committee (2020-2021)

## **ADMISSIONS**

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- Texas State Bar, November 2018