

NATALIE RODRIGUEZ

Southwestern Law School
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EMPLOYMENT

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Vice Dean for Academics and Associate Professor of Law, January 2025-Present

Provide assistance and counsel to the President and Dean on a variety of matters relating to the strategic direction of the school as well as programmatic, curricular, faculty, and operational matters. Oversee the following: faculty, adjunct faculty, Registrar's Office, Academic Administration, and the Online J.D. Program. Collaborate with the Dean and co-Vice Deans to implement school policies and ensure accreditation compliance. Collaborate with the Student Services Office to address academic complaints or concerns raised by students. Serve as a resource for students on various school policy issues, academic and other school matters, and issues related to interactions with members of the school community, and, as needed, enforce school policies.

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Associate Dean for Academic Innovation and Administration and Associate Professor of Law, January 2022-January 2025, and *Interim Registrar*, 2024

Worked closely with the Vice Deans and in coordination with several departments, created the schedule of classes for all J.D. programs; created the academic calendar; communicated with faculty regarding teaching assignments; provided an orientation for new faculty; participated on various faculty committees; created and managed the faculty development and the adjunct budgets; maintained faculty governance documents such as the Faculty Manual; processed and reported bar results information, including the annual ABA Bar Passage Questionnaire; managed a research project aimed at identifying non-traditional factors for predicting law school and bar success; provided training for faculty in distance education methods via live workshops, pre-recorded videos, and training manuals; managed grant projects

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Assistant Dean of Academic Success and Associate Professor of Law, July 2017-January 2022

Developed, enhanced, and administered a comprehensive academic support program for law students, which included bridge programs and first-year programs that assisted students in the transition to law school, and second-year courses designed for students who had been identified as at-risk based on academic performance; taught in bar support courses and mentored students during their bar studies; collaborated with other departments and faculty who were involved in providing academic support; participated in various faculty committees; coordinated and enhanced the institution's data collecting and analyses; processed and reported all bar results information, including the annual ABA Bar Passage Questionnaire; managed a research project aimed at identifying non-traditional factors for predicting law school and bar success; provided training for faculty in distance education methods via live workshops, pre-recorded videos, and training manuals; drafted grant applications that provided additional funding to support programming and intervention

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Director of Academic Success and Bar-Related Programs and Associate Professor of Law, August 2013-July 2017

Developed, enhanced, and administered a comprehensive academic support and bar program for law students, which included bridge programs and first-year programs that assisted students in the transition to law school, courses designed for students who have been identified as at-risk based on academic performance, early bar workshops and a customized bar preparation program; collaborated with other departments and faculty who are involved in providing academic support; participated in various faculty committees; coordinated and enhanced the institution's data collecting and analyses; processed and reported all bar results information, including the Annual ABA Bar Passage Questionnaire

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Academic Success and Bar-Related Programs Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Law, August 2012-July 2013

Worked closely with the Director of Academic Success and Bar-Related Programs to research, design, implement and manage academic support programs, including pre-matriculation programs, first-year programs and Bar examination preparation programs; taught a first-year course for at-risk students; supervised the Dean's Fellow program; met individually with students who were struggling academically

Courses Taught at Southwestern

- First-year Academic Skills Courses (Academic Skills Lab 2016-2019; Foundations of Law and Practice 2019 to 2021)
- Remedies (co-taught summer and fall 2019)
- MBE: Skills and Strategies (co-taught 2014 to present; did not teach 2018-2019)
- Contracts II (co-taught 2013-2016)
- Legal Methods (2012-2015)
- Principles of Legal Analysis (fall 2013 and fall 2014)

Select Southwestern Law School Service

- WSCUC Core Drafting Committee and WSCUC Steering Committee (2025 to present)
- Class Continuity Committee (Committee Chair, 2025 to present)
- Crisis Response Team (2025 to present)
- Educational Technology Committee (2025 to present)
- Student Experience Working Group (2024 to present)
- Online J.D. Program Committee (2022 to present, Committee Chair, 2025 to present, and 2022 to 2023)
- Faculty Recruitment Committee (2022 to present)
- Lateral Appointments with Tenure Committee (2022 to present)
- Tenure Committee (2022 to present)
- Sabbatical Committee (2022 to present)
- Dean's Advisory Committee (2022 to present)
- Curriculum Committee (2022 to present; 2013 to 2015)
- SMaRT (Southwestern's Managing Risk Team)/Enterprise Risk Management Task Force (2022 to present)
- Innovating and Developing Educational Alternatives Ad Hoc Committee (2019 to present; Committee Chair, 2020 to 2022)

- Faculty Development Committee (2022 to 2025)
- WASC Accreditation Working Group (2022 to 2025)
- Assessment Committee (2022 to 2024)
- Admissions Committee (2021 to 2024)
- Faculty Advisor, Christian Legal Society (2020 to 2024)
- Bar Success Grant Funding Opportunity Ad Hoc Committee (2021 to 2023)
- Student Support & Emergency Team Ad Hoc Committee (2021 to 2022)
- Pandemic Response Team Sub-Committee on Course Scheduling (spring 2020)
- Admissions Sub-Committee on Non-Traditional Factors (2018 to present)
- Bar Passage Task Force (2016 to 2022)
- Hybrid Online Ad Hoc Committee (2017 to 2018)
- Outcomes Ad Hoc Committee (2015 to 2017)
- Data Collection Ad Hoc Committee (2014 to 2015)
- Student Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee (2013 to 2015)

FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT, Los Angeles, California

Judicial Extern to Judge Patrick Walsh, January 2012-May 2012

Conducted legal research on Habeas Corpus Writs and Social Security claims; prepared bench memoranda; drafted opinions

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Dean's Fellow and Teacher Assistant to Director of Academic Support, August 2010-May 2012

Provided students with academic support resources through workshops and regular one-on-one meetings; taught basic professional and academic skills such as time management, note-taking, and exam preparation; assisted Director in creating materials for the skills programs and courses

THOMSON REUTERS, Los Angeles, California

Westlaw Student Representative, March 2010-May 2012

Assisted with Westlaw trainings on campus; assisted students with legal research; provided professors, faculty and students with technical support for TWEN pages; developed and implemented on-campus marketing strategies

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Research and Teacher Assistant to Dean Austen Parrish, August-December 2011

Assisted students with course material in Civil Procedure; edited and researched relevant authority to support professor's publications

CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND DISTRICT, DIVISION SEVEN, Los Angeles, California

Judicial Extern to the Honorable Frank Y. Jackson, Summer 2011

Conducted legal research on criminal and civil issues, including Habeas Corpus Writs; prepared bench memoranda; drafted opinions

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, Los Angeles, California

Certified Law Clerk/Extern, Sex Crimes Unit, January-May 2011

Performed legal research on criminal law issues; drafted motions; reviewed, analyzed and summarized primary and secondary legal material; provided trial support

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Research Assistant to Professor Robert Pugsley, June 2010-May 2011

Collaborated with Professor in the creation of a syllabus for a Criminal Law course; developed PowerPoint presentations for the course; assisted students with course material; maintained the Professor's TWEN page

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Certified Law Clerk, Children's Rights Clinic, August-December 2010

Represented children in administrative hearings; performed legal research; interviewed clients regarding potential legal action; interacted with opposing counsel and school administrators; drafted research memoranda

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Research Assistant to Professor Danielle Hart, Summer 2010

Researched and submitted memoranda on numerous doctrines related to Contract Law

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Site Director, October 2004-May 2007

Developed and supervised all aspects of an after school program for at-risk children; managed a team of 20 tutors and assistants; created and implemented an enrichment activity curriculum; regularly consulted by the Program Director to assist with overall program development

PROJECT GRAD LOS ANGELES, North Hollywood, California

Case Manager, September 2002-September 2004

Provided families from low socio-economic backgrounds the essential resources needed to increase their child's achievement level in the classroom; conducted workshops and school events for families; worked with students to identify and remedy learning gaps to increase classroom performance

SELECT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Presentation, *Empowering Applicants through Innovative Admissions Approach*, Pacific Coast Association of Pre-Law Advisors, *Don't Stop Believin': Advising for Transitions in a Changing Landscape* (June 8, 2023)
- Article, Anahid Gharakhanian, Natalie Rodriguez & Elizabeth A. Anderson, *More than Numbers: Empirical Evidence of an Innovative Approach to Admissions*, 107 MINN. L. REV. 2431 (2023)
- Presentation, *Innovative Approach to Admissions: A Collaborative Effort*, RISE Alliance and USC Gould School of Law Symposium, *Intersectionality and Social Movements: A DEI Tool for Coalition* (January 13, 2023)
- Micro-essay, *Collected Wisdom Continued: What We Learned About Teaching During COVID*, AALS Section on Teaching Methods Newsletter, December 2022
- Presentation, *"More than the Numbers": Empirical Evidence of an Innovative Approach to Admissions*, Minnesota Law Review Symposium, *Leaving Langdell Behind: Reimagining Legal Education for a New Era* (October 7, 2022)
- Blog, *Using Meaningful Admissions Data to Improve Legal Education and the Profession*, LSSSE (June 23, 2022)

- Panel Moderator, *Leveraging Technology to Increase Student Engagement in Online Courses*, AALS Conference (January 7, 2022)
- Panel Moderator, *Who Should Own the Course Content Created for Online Delivery?*, AALS Conference (January 7, 2022)
- Podcast, *Why Can't We Have One Bar Exam for All Jurisdictions? (Ep.3)*, UnCommon Law (December 2, 2021)
- Organizer and Host, *2021 West Coast Consortium of Academic Support Professionals Conference* (November 5, 2021)
- Presentation, *Accentuate the Positive – Eliminate the Negative: Pandemic Pedagogy Wins*, AALS Teaching Methods Webinar (October 6, 2021)
- Presentation, *Breaking Things Down to Build Students Up*, AASE Conference (May 26, 2021)
- Panel Participant, *California Bar Exam Success Panel*, The Los Angeles County Bar Association (May 24, 2021)
- Micro-essay, *Collected Wisdom: Teaching During the Time of COVID*, AALS Section on Teaching Methods Newsletter, December 2020
- Article, *Forging Relationships with New Students and Encouraging a Sense of Community*, AALS Section on New Law Professors Newsletter, Summer 2020
- Presentation, *Intersections Between Deliberate Online Pedagogy and Emergency Remote Learning*, CALIcon2020 Conference hosted by The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (June 3, 2020)
- Presentation, *Lessons Learned from Pre-COVID Online Teaching* Online Conference, Online Teaching Conference hosted by the Association of Academic Support Educators (May 1, 2020)
- Blog, *Online Learning Tips*, Law School Academic Support Blog (March 13, 2020)
- Podcast, *Simplicity and Flexibility*, The Productive Woman (October 30, 2019)
- Note, *Give Us Your Weary But Not Your Battered: The DHS, Politics and Asylum for Victims of Domestic Violence*, 18 SW. J. INT'L L. 317 (2012)

SELECT COMMUNITY AND OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- California Supreme Court and State Bar, Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the Bar Exam (2021 to 2023)
- AASE, Executive Board, Secretary (2021 to 2022)
- AALS, Technology, Law and Legal Education Section, Co-Chair, Programming Committee (2021 to 2022)
- AALS, Academic Support Section, Programming Committee Member (2021 to 2022)
- AASE, Online Presence Committee Member (2020 to 2021)
- AASE, Bar Advocacy Committee Member (2019 to 2020)
- AASE, ABA 316 Sub-Committee, Chair (2019 to 2020)
- IAALS, Focus Groups Observer for "Building A Better Bar" Research Study (2019 to 2020)
- AASE, Scholarship Group Committee Member (2019 to 2020)
- California State Bar, Advisory Board Member for Law School Performance Study (2017 to 2019)
- AALS, Academic Support Section, Programming Committee Member (2017 to 2018)

EDUCATION

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

Juris Doctor, May 2012

Honors: *Recipient*, CALI and Witkin Awards

Recipient, Public Service Award
Recipient, Exceptional Achievement Award
Recipient, Dean's Merit Award
Recipient, Bluebook Award
Recipient, Bradley Scholarship
Recipient, Dino Hirsch Scholarship

Activities: *Lead Article Editor, Southwestern Journal of International Law, 2011-2012*
Student Ambassador, Southwestern Law School, 2010-2012
Staff Member, Southwestern Journal of International Law, 2010-2011

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY, Los Angeles, California

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; Minor, Philosophy, May 2002

Honors: *Recipient, Dean's List*

Participant, Oxford Scholars Program, University of Oxford, England, Summer 2001

MEMBERSHIPS AND BAR ADMISSION

California State Bar (2012 to present)

Member, Association of American Law Schools, Legal Master's Programs Section, (2026 to present)

Member, Association of American Law Schools, Technology, Law and Legal Education Section, (2020 to present)

Member, Association of American Law Schools, Teaching Methods Section, (2020 to present)

Member, Association of American Law Schools, Academic Support Section, (2013 to present)

Member, Association of Academic Support Educators (2013 to present)

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish