

Della D. Thompson-Bell

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Teaching Experience

- **Southwestern Law School**, Los Angeles, California
 - **Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills**, June 2024 to present
 - **Associate Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills**, June 2021 to May 2024
 - Develop course plans and teach students Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills
 - Serve as Co-advisor to Students with Caregiving Responsibilities
 - Serve as Faculty Advisor to the First-Generation Law Students Association, the Student Bar Association, and the Christian Legal Society.
 - Serve on the Externship Committee, Faculty Recruitment Committee, Academic Freedom Committee, and Dismissal Hearing Policy (Chair).
 - Previously served on the Benefits Committee and the Dean's Task Force for Equity, Inclusion & Belonging.
- **Irvine School of Law**, Cerritos, California
 - **Associate Professor**, May 2021 to July 2021
 - Developed course plans and taught students Trusts.

Publications

- Filer, Janice, Cain-Sanschagrin, Ebony, & **Thompson-Bell, Della** (August 2024) "Policy, Practice, and Perceptions of K-12 Social-Emotional Learning." *International Journal on Studies in Education (IJonSE)*, 6(3), 432-445.
- Robie, James R., & **Thompson-Bell, Della D.** (Fall 2003) "Collapse – Evolution of Definitions in Property Insurance." *Society of Claim Law Associates News*.

Guest Lectures, Presentations, Training

- **Panelist**, Southwestern Law School's Online JD Program, *Finding the Fit: Alumni Stories of Building Practical Skills in a Packed Schedule*, Southwestern Law School, February 19, 2026
- **Presenter**, 2025 Western Regional Legal Writing Conference, *Access Through the Written Word: Advancing Justice Through Legal Writing Instruction*, University of California, Irvine School of Law, September 6, 2025
- **Presenter**, Global Legal Skills Conference XVII, *Advancing Wellbeing and Inclusion: Implementing the International Bar Association's Guidelines for Wellbeing in Legal Education with Practical Strategies for Mental Health and EDI*, Masaryk University, Faculty of Law, Brno, Czechia, May 30, 2025
- **Panelist**, Safe Space Series, Keys to Empowerment and Wellness, Southwestern Law School, April 16, 2024.
- **Presenter**, Global Legal Skills Conference XVI, *The Greatest Challenges to Teaching Legal Writing and Analysis in the Mid-2020s Around the World*, Aula Magna, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy, June 6, 2024
- **Panelist**, Safe Space Series, Experiences in Law School and Beyond, Southwestern Law School, April 5, 2023.

- **Presenter**, IDEA Committee Faculty Roundtable, *Technologies in the Classroom*, Southwestern Law School, April 25, 2022.
- **Presenter**, A Night of Storytelling, Southwestern Law School, January 30, 2022.
- **Guest Lecturer**, Municipal Law Seminar, Southwestern Law School, January 19, 2022.
- **Trainer**, Torrance Police Department, *Sergeant Training Day, Risk Management*, January 31, 2018.
- **Trainer**, City of Torrance, *Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training*, October 6, 2016.
- **Trainer**, City of Torrance Commissioner Training, *The Brown Act*, September 15, 2016, March 31, 2015, and October 2008.
- **Presenter**, Torrance Police Department Field Training Officer Workshop, *Report Writing, and Other Concerns*, July 23, 2014, and July 25, 2012.
- **Trainer**, Torrance Environmental Quality Officers, *Administrative Warrant Inspections*, October 24, 2013.
- **Presenter**, National Association of University Women, *Legal Resources - More Than You Thought*, February 2, 2013.
- **Panelist**, League of Women Voters of Torrance Area, *How Women in Public Service Balance Demanding Positions and Home Life*, October 20, 2010.
- **Trainer**, Torrance Police Department Field Training Officer Patrol School, *Courtroom Testimony*, December 23, 2008, April 3, 2008, February 6, 2007, November 24, 2006, and July 25, 2006.
- **Presenter**, Del Amo Fashion Center's Loss Prevention Seminar, November 29, 2007, and November 30, 2006.
- **Trainer**, Torrance Environmental Quality Officers, *Courtroom Testimony*, May 15, 2006.

Legal Work Experience

- **City of Torrance City Attorney's Office**, Torrance, California
 - **Deputy City Attorney, Civil Division**, June 2008 to June 2021
 - Analyzed, prepared, and defended the city in civil litigation matters, including personal injury, civil rights-related lawsuits, and wrongful death cases.
 - Prepared ordinances and resolutions.
 - Provided general municipal law advice, including but not limited to public meetings, conflicts of interest, and public records issues.
 - Served as counsel to the Claims Review Board and Civil Service Commission.
 - Trained and supervised legal interns and externs.
 - **Courtroom Deputy, Criminal Division**, January 2004 to June 2008
 - Analyzed, prepared, and prosecuted misdemeanor criminal cases from the filing of complaints through trials and appeals.
 - **Law Clerk/Extern**, May to August 2001
 - Conducted extensive legal research.
 - Drafted ordinance.
 - Presided over parking citation appeals.

- **Robie & Matthai Law Offices**, Los Angeles, California
 - **Attorney and Law Clerk**, May 2001 to January 2004
 - Prepared and filed various motions and oppositions to motions.
 - Propounded and responded to written discovery.
 - Prepared preliminary reports to clients, letters to clients and opposing counsel, and memoranda to partners on legal and factual issues.
 - Attended and argued various motions, case management conferences, and settlement conferences.
- **United States District Court – Central District**, Los Angeles, California
 - **Law Clerk/Extern for the Honorable Dean D. Pregerson, U.S. District Court Judge**, January to April 2001
 - Analyzed various motions, drafted bench memoranda, and attended trials and hearings.
- **Los Angeles County Superior Court**, Compton, California
 - **Law Clerk/Extern for the Honorable Allen Webster, Jr., Los Angeles Superior Court Judge**, January to April 2000
 - Analyzed various motions, drafted bench memoranda, and attended trials and hearings.

Education

- **Southwestern University School of Law**, Los Angeles, California
 - *Juris Doctor*, 2002
 - Research/Special Projects Editor, *Southwestern Journal of Law and Trade in the Americas*
 - Dean's List
- **California State University Dominguez Hills**, Carson, California
 - *Bachelor of Science in Business Administration*, 1987

Bar Memberships and Professional Affiliations

- Admitted to Practice in the United States Supreme Court
- Admitted to Practice in the California State Supreme Court
- Admitted to Practice in the United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit
- Admitted to Practice in the United States District Court of California for the Central District, Eastern District, and Southern District
- Member of the American Bar Association
- Executive Committee Member of the American Inns of Court, Southwestern Law School Chapter, Master of the Bench
- Member of the Global Legal Skills Institute

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