

# MICHELE R. VOLLMER

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Penn State Law, University Park, Pennsylvania**

Associate Dean for Clinics and Experiential Learning, July 2021 to the present; Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic, July 2015 to the present; Director, Explore Law Program, January 2010 to 2015; Associate Professor of Legal Writing, July 2013 to June 2015; Assistant Professor of Legal Writing, July 2010 to July 2012; Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, August 2008 to June 2010

**Awards: National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium Dave Myer Award 2020:  
“For the Many Hours You Have Given To Help Us Make a Difference for Veterans”  
Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve Above and Beyond Award 2021**

Responsible for directing the clinic and supervising law students who (1) represent veterans in their VA disability compensation, pension and education appeals; (2) evaluate cases and perform research for veterans and service members; and (3) address federal or state policy matters affecting veterans and servicemembers, including research and writing for amici briefs and commenting on proposed legislation and regulations. Represented 79 veterans in over 110 separate matters winning those clients awards totaling over \$4.4 million dollars in benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs over the past seven years. Supervised students who counseled over 270 other veterans through the clinic’s online and in person outreach events to answer questions, perform research, and refer veterans to other attorneys or organizations. Assisted five Vietnam veterans with leukemia and/or spouses to win service connection, 100% disability ratings and/or survivor benefits, and filed five other leukemia appeals which are still pending. Won a 23-year back pay award of \$660,000 and an ongoing 100% disability rating, special monthly compensation and service connection for Parkinson’s for a Cold War veteran who was injected with the toxin VX in a covert CIA chemical research program. Helped Vietnam veterans to win service connection, increased ratings, accrued benefits and/or survivor claims for ischemic heart disease, urothelial cell carcinoma, lymphoma, prostate cancer, peripheral neuropathy, PTSD and TDIU/unemployability benefits. Won two CUE claims resulting in large back pay awards for the clients. Assisted a Gulf war veteran with a discharge upgrade and follow-on VA benefits for PTSD and a TBI. Assisted three Penn State student veterans to obtain education benefits on appeal and another education appeal is pending, assisted two Korean Conflict veterans and one World War II veteran to obtain pension benefits, and one Korean Conflict veteran to win service connection for stomach cancer. Assisted Gulf War and recently discharged veterans to obtain service connection for PTSD, TBI, TDIU and won CAVC remand for Gulf War veteran to pursue aid and attendance. Assisted PA National Guard members to obtain service connection for hip, knee and ankle injuries, peripheral neuropathy, sleep apnea, and TDIU. Assisted veteran exposed to Camp Lejeune contamination to obtain a 60% disability rating. Gave USERRA briefings and served on committees for PA ESGR. Responsible to teach Veterans Benefits, 2017 to the present, Civil Pretrial Practice and Advocacy, 2014-2021, pre-LLM students U.S. legal system and legal writing, 2013 – 2015, legal research, writing, and analysis to first year law students, and upper-level writing courses, including Appellate Advocacy, August 2008 – May 2015

## PUBLICATIONS

*Veterans Advocacy in Pennsylvania: Basic Veterans Law* (PBI 2022), Chapters 3 and 4 (addressing appeals before the Board of Veterans Appeals and U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims)

*Amicus Brief for National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium in Euzebio v. Wilkie*, Docket No. 20-01072, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Co-Author)

*Veteran’s Benefits*, in *Elder Law In Pennsylvania* (4th ed. 2019) (with Leah J. Davis)

*A Legal Writing Refresher On Effective Persuasive Writing Techniques*, in *Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s 28th Annual Criminal Law Symposium Materials* (2011)

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## PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

### **Division of Enforcement, United States Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C.**

Senior Counsel, June 2002 to Aug. 2008; Sept. 1998 to Oct. 1999; Staff Attorney, Sept. 1997 to Aug. 1998

**Awards:** U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, Enron Task Force, June 2006  
SEC Chairman's Award for Excellence, Enron Team, August 2004  
SEC Division of Enforcement Director's Award, September 2007

#### ***In The Matter of Enron Corp.***

Responsible for investigation of Enron in-house counsel, and outside counsel, Vinson & Elkins, and for litigation and settlement negotiation concerning Enron in-house counsel; responsible to assist the Department of Justice in their parallel criminal investigation, including the criminal trials of Ken Lay and Jeffrey Skilling. Responsible for monitoring document productions for the Enron Team from Enron Corp. and Vinson & Elkins and other third parties, totaling more than a terabyte of electronic information. Responsible for investigative work to assist the SEC Enron Team to obtain judgments against more than 20 officers and auditors resulting in criminal forfeiture of over \$84 million, and penalties exceeding \$260 million

#### ***In The Matter of Waste Management, Inc.***

Responsible for the investigation of the officers in a complex financial accounting fraud spanning five years. In litigation, SEC alleged officers inflated profits by \$1.7 billion to meet earnings targets in one of the most egregious fraud schemes in SEC history. Investigative work concerning the officers assisted another enforcement attorney with the investigation of the role of Arthur Andersen LLP in the same scheme resulting in a \$7 million penalty

#### ***Other General Responsibilities***

Responsible for all facets of complex financial fraud, microcap financial fraud and insider trading investigations, including issuing subpoenas, analyzing financial documents, taking testimony, negotiating and drafting settlements, researching and preparing internal action memoranda, litigation complaints, disgorgement plans, motions, and briefs, and taking depositions during litigation; Recruiting Committee Member, 1998 Summer Honors Program

### **Office of the General Counsel, United States Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C.**

Senior Counsel, Litigation and Administrative Practice Section, October 1999 to June 2002

Responsible for all facets of litigation representing the Commission; research and preparation of internal action memoranda, *amicus curiae* briefs, trial and appellate briefs; prepared briefs to successfully oppose post-trial motions for attorneys' fees totaling over \$500,000 under the Equal Access to Justice Act, and motions to vacate pre-trial settlements under FRCP 60(b); defended the SEC in an EEOC employment discrimination matter and amicably resolved the matter favorably for the client before trial. Presented oral argument before the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the District of Columbia Circuit, and the Georgia Court of Appeals

### **Annis, Mitchell, Cockey, Edwards & Roehn, P.A., Tampa, Florida**

Partner, September 1996 to August 1997; Associate, August 1990 to August 1996

Responsible for all facets of commercial litigation, including discovery, taking and defending depositions, research and preparation of legal memoranda, trial briefs and appellate briefs, arguing motions and other matters at court

hearings, preparing witnesses for deposition and trial, developing trial strategy, preparing mediation statements, representing the client during mediations, and preparing and enforcing settlement agreements. Handled two jury and three non-jury trials from beginning to end; assisted as second chair at several other jury and non-jury trials; prepared several other cases for trial that settled during trial; responsible for supervising paralegals and associates on all facets of litigation; obtained deposition and trial skills training from the National Institute for Trial Advocacy; recruiting committee member and mentor for summer associates, 1993 to 1996

## **EDUCATION**

### **Duke University School of Law, J.D. with honors**

Robert Netherland Miller Scholar  
American Jurisprudence Award for Civil Procedure

### **University of Notre Dame, B.A. with highest honors, Government and International Studies**

Notre Dame Scholar

## **OTHER SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE**

**Courses:**           **Current courses:**  
Veterans and Servicemembers Clinic  
Veterans Benefits Law

**Previous courses:**  
Civil Pre-Trial Practice and Advocacy  
Appellate Advocacy  
Legal Analysis, Research & Writing I & II  
Applied Legal Analysis & Writing I & II  
Introduction to Common Law Analysis and Language

### **Program**

**Creator:** Explore Law, an intensive program offered to undergraduate students developed to teach first generation students and students from underrepresented groups about legal careers and the law school admissions process, and to introduce students to the study of law, legal analysis and legal writing through mock classes, presentations, writing assignments and mock trials, 2010 to 2015

**Committees:** DEI Committee (2021-2022); Strategic Planning Committee (2019-2020); Non-JD Programs Working Group (2019-2020); Curriculum Committee (2017-2020; 2012-2013); Affiliate Faculty Committee Appointments Committee (2018-2020); University Park Clinics & Experiential Learning Committee (2013-2017); Honor Committee (2009-2012); Explore Law Committee (2009-2010)

**Consultant:** Pennsylvania State University's College of the Liberal Arts, Consultant for Outreach and Online Education's Law and Society Major, World Campus, June 2012-2015

### **National**

**Committees:** National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium, Board Member (2019-2020); Membership Chair (2017-2020); Advocacy Committee Member (2018-2020); Conference Fundraising Chair (2018)

### **Course**

**Authorship:** Introduction to Common Law Language and Analysis, author of online textbook materials, published

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with Penn State University World Campus, Fall 2014; co-author of online textbook materials, published with Penn State University World Campus, Fall 2012 - Spring 2014

## Other

**Scholarship:** Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing Course Book, author of supplemental material, published for Penn State University Dickinson School of Law, 2012-2013; 2013-2014; 2014-2015

“A Legal Writing Refresher On Effective Persuasive Writing Techniques,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Criminal Law Symposium, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, June, 2011, chapter for the Symposium materials

“LSAT Essay Writing Tips,” with collaboration from law student teaching assistant, the Penn State University Dickinson School of Law’s Explore Law Program 2011 - 2014

Legal Writing Institute Member, Contributor to the Legal Writing Institute Ideabank

## PUBLIC SPEAKING AND PRESENTATIONS

*BVA Appellate Practices and Hearings*, Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Veteran Service Officer Conference, September 2022

*BVA Appeals and CAVC Appeals*, Veterans Advocacy in Pennsylvania: Basic Veterans Law 2022, Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE Course, August 2022

Huddle with the Faculty Talk, Penn State University Alumni Association, November 16, 2019, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jV\\_CTIS7hQE&list=PLsx8-6C-yqnMU5gWhs0WxXc1dYiQX8zSO&index=7&t=160s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jV_CTIS7hQE&list=PLsx8-6C-yqnMU5gWhs0WxXc1dYiQX8zSO&index=7&t=160s)

*Decision Review Officer Appeals & Notices of Disagreement*, Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Veteran Service Officer Conference, June 2018

*Discharge Upgrades*, Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Veteran Service Officer Conference, June 2017

## CLE Presentations

-*Ideas for Using Legal Tech to Address Access to Justice Issues*, (Co-Presenter), AALS Section on Technology, Law and Legal Education 2022 Summer Webinar Series, June 2022

-*Veterans Law Collaboration Across Clinics*, 2021 AALS Clinical Conference Session Information (Discussion Co-Leader and Co-Facilitator), April 2021

-*How to Set Up a Veterans Clinic*, SEALS Conference (Discussion Leader and Facilitator), August 2019

-*Veterans Benefit Laws and The Role of Law School Veterans Clinics*, Lehigh Valley Veterans: Their Story, The Challenges and How We Can Work Together, Northampton County Bar Association, 2016 Continuing Legal Education Program, December 1, 2016

-*Veterans Benefit Laws*, Co-presenter, Serving Those Who Served, Veterans Benefits, Programs and Legal Issues, Penn State Fayette and the Fayette County and Westmoreland Bar Associations’ CLE Program, April 29, 2016

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## **CLE Presentations (con't)**

- Using GradeMark: Perspectives from Professors and Students*, Co-presenter, Penn State University's Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium, March 22, 2014
- Persuasive Writing for Criminal Attorneys*, Co-presenter, Pennsylvania Bar Institute's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Criminal Law Symposium, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, June 3, 2011

## **Penn State Law's Explore Law Program Presentations**

- Personal Statement Workshops*, 2021 – 2022
- Case Briefing Workshop*, 2010 – 2020
- Writing Workshop: How to Write a Better Personal Statement & LSAT Essay Exam*, 2010 – 2020
- Trial Advocacy Workshop*, 2010-2013 and 2015
- Negotiation Workshop*, 2015
- Brief Intro to the U.S. Legal System & Litigation Workshop I: Intro to the Stages of Civil Litigation from Complaint to Discovery through Trial*, 2010 – 2012
- Legal Research Workshop*, 2010 – 2013

## **Other Presentations**

- Discussion of the Work of the Penn State Law Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic*, Update to the Pennsylvania House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee, August 2022
- Discussion of the Work of the Penn State Law Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic*, Engineering Department Student Affairs, September 2019
- Law School Admission 101: How to Write a Better Personal Statement and Get a Jump on Law School Admission with Explore Law*, the Penn State University Student Support Services Group, Spring 2010-2013
- Get a Jump on Law School Admission with Explore Law*, the Penn State University Student Liberal Arts Undergraduate Council, Spring 2011-2013
- Panel Discussion of Graduate Programs, Discussion of the Explore Law Program*, Pennsylvania State University Bunton-Waller/Lenfest Fellows program, Fall 2013
- Introduction to Legal Writing in Law School*, Pennsylvania State University Multicultural Undergraduate Law Association, Fall 2013
- Transitioning from Undergraduate Writing to Writing in Law School*, the Penn State University Undergraduate Law Society, Spring 2012

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Admitted to practice in Florida since 1990  
Florida Bar Association, Trial Lawyers and Appellate Advocacy Sections  
American Bar Association, Litigation Section  
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Bar Association  
National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium  
Legal Writing Institute  
Wills for Heroes

## **ACCREDITATION**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, July 16, 2015 to the present