



GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
Litigation Center

Fall 2020 Faculty



Rachel R. Brockl

Litigation Center Interim Director & Visiting Professor of Law

Professor Brockl joined the GGU faculty as the Associate Director of the Litigation Center (now the Interim Director) and a Visiting Professor of Law after approximately six years of service as a Deputy District Attorney. During her time as a prosecutor, Professor Brockl conducted over 30 jury trials, including cases such as DUI, child molest, battery, theft, resisting arrest, and more. She spent several years in general misdemeanors and handled numerous felony preliminary hearings. Professor Brockl was the lead and sole attorney in charge of the Juvenile Unit for one year and of the DUI Unit for over two years.

While working at the Napa District Attorney's Office, she was presented with the award of "Trial Attorney of the Year" for completing the most jury trials in 2018. Professor Brockl also received the 2018 "Young Lawyer of the Year" award from the Napa County

Bar Association applauding her outreach in the community, efforts in the courtroom, and involvement with local bar associations. In 2019, the Napa Valley Register newspaper featured an interview with Professor Brockl highlighting her zealous advocacy on DUI cases. In addition, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) honored her at their annual Law Enforcement Recognition event in 2019 as an outstanding DUI prosecutor.

Professor Brockl has been a featured speaker at several trainings for prosecutors and law enforcement on the topics of alcohol and marijuana DUI cases, as well as report writing. For three years, she was a mentor in the Puente Mentorship Program in Napa where she assisted underrepresented students to graduate from community college in order to excel in the community and pursue higher learning. Professor Brockl successfully coached the Napa High School Mock Trial team for two years, leading the team in her final year as Head Coach.

She graduated from San Francisco State University in 2010 with a major in Criminal Justice and she is a 2013 Golden Gate University (GGU), School of Law alum. As the first attorney in her family, she graduated with legal specializations in the areas of Criminal Law, Litigation, and Public Interest. While attending GGU, she held numerous board member titles, most notably as the President of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF). In this position, she founded and directed the first annual California Animal Law Symposium (CALs), an educational conference run by law students regarding animal welfare topics. Professor Brockl's love for animals crossed over into her job as a prosecutor where she was acknowledged as the first Napa County Deputy District Attorney to be granted permission by the Court to allow a support dog to accompany a victim on the witness stand during a child molestation jury trial.

During her time at GGU, Professor Brockl has been an instructor for the 2019 Summer 1st STEP Program, Advanced Trial Advocacy, Introduction to Litigation, Effective Brief Writing & Motion Advocacy, and leads the 2020 Summer 1st STEP Program.

Teaching Fall 2020 Courses: Advanced Trial Advocacy, Competition: Mock Trial, and Competition: Advanced Mock Trial.



Harriet Schiffer Scott

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Ms. Scott is an experienced trainer of executives and professionals, helping them to become dynamic and spontaneous public speakers and communicators. Drawing on 20 years of experience running her company Stage Presence®, Ms. Scott utilizes her skills and talents as a monologist and theater director to help public speakers present with greater levels of clarity and powerful communication. She teaches legal professionals to tremendously improve their confidence, oration and persuasive abilities.

A seasoned actor and theater director, Ms Scott has toured her work extensively across the United States and at multiple European theater festivals. Several years ago, GGU's first Litigation Director, Professor Bernard L. Segal invited Ms Scott to bring her skills to the litigation department as an Adjunct Professor. She teaches a class entitled, Professional Presentation and Persuasion, coaches Mock Trial and is a core faculty member of 1st STEP. Ms. Scott served three terms as a member of the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization and was the Education Committee Chair. She coaches practicing attorneys and helps attorneys prepare their witnesses for depositions and trials.

Teaching Fall 2020 Course: Professional Presentation & Persuasion.



Will Morehead

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Will Morehead joins the GGU adjunct faculty to teach Evidence this summer in the 1st STEP program. He is a private defense attorney practicing primarily in Marin and San Francisco. He was formerly a Deputy District Attorney in Marin County where he was a member of the felony trial team. He has tried cases in state and federal court as well as in binding arbitration proceedings. He is also a State Bar Board Certified Specialist in criminal law. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School (J.D. 2004) and Stanford University (B.A. 1999).

Teaching Fall 2020 Course: Handling Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Cases.



Honorable Andrew A. Steckler

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Judge Steckler is a California Superior Court Judge, sitting in Alameda County. He was appointed to the bench in 2015 by former Governor Jerry Brown. Judge Steckler received his B.A. from Williams College and went on to earn his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Judge Steckler began his legal career working as an associate with Heller Ehrman LLP. A year later, he joined the Alameda County Public Defender's Office. In 1998 he served as an associate at Morrison & Foerster LLP before returning to Alameda County to serve as an assistant public defender once again, prior to his Superior Court appointment.

Teaching Fall 2020 Course: Evidence.



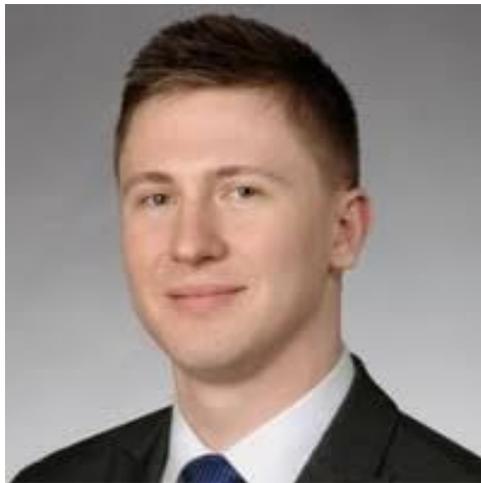
Honorable Edward Torpoco

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Judge Torpoco is a California Superior Court Judge, sitting in San Francisco. He is currently assigned to the Criminal Court in San Francisco, where he serves as Supervising Judge of Preliminary Hearings. Previously, he presided at felony and misdemeanor trials.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Torpoco was a Senior Director & Legal Counsel at eBay Inc. for over eight years. He also worked as a state and federal prosecutor for seven years, including at the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco and at the U.S. Department of Justice, Public Integrity Section, in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Georgetown University.

Teaching Fall 2020 Course: Trial Advocacy.



Erik Faussner

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Erik Faussner graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science degree in Water, Environment and Society. Mr. Faussner earned his JD from Golden Gate University, School of Law in May of 2015, graduating Summa Cum Laude, with a specialization certificate in Litigation, and was awarded the student excellence award for his achievement in the Honors Lawyering Program.

While in law school, Mr. Faussner served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Judge Teri L. Jackson of the San Francisco Superior Court, an honors law extern at the Securities and Exchange Commission, and as a law clerk at the Jaffe Law Firm. Mr. Faussner also served as the Executive Online Editor for the GGU Law

Review, hosted the California Water Law Symposium, and excelled as a competitor in mock trial.

Mr. Faussner is a bay area native who joined Hassard Bonnington LLP in 2019. Before joining Hassard Bonnington, Mr. Faussner was an associate with Bledsoe, Diestel, Treppa & Crane LLP, served as the Baxter Litigation Graduate Fellow at GGU Law, where he coached mock trial, assisted Litigation professors, and helped run a national mock trial competition.

He has coached for Golden Gate's National Mock Trial Team since 2016 and taught Introduction to Litigation, a 1L elective course, in Spring of 2020. Mr. Faussner will also join the 2020 Summer 1st STEP team to teach Effective Brief Writing & Motion Advocacy.

Teaching Fall 2020 Course: Introduction to Written Discovery.



Alex Jakle

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Alex is a doctoral-level social scientist with expertise in the psychology of self-deception in relation to law-breaking and deviance. He is experienced at both qualitative research design and quantitative data analysis and modeling. Alex designs and conducts mock trials and focus groups. He also assists in the development and testing of case themes and narrative explanations for persuading jurors and jury selection in a variety of cases.

Prior to joining the trial consulting field, Alex lectured in the Political Science Department at the University of Michigan, teaching Law, Culture and Identity, and Law and Public Policy, blending social science with law, with an emphasis on how culture, social identity and narrative identity shape legal institutions as well as individual and group perceptions of law and legality. While at the University of Michigan with the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, he assisted in the evaluation of faculty and intervention efforts to improve presentation skills and teaching techniques. That experience serves him well in working with witnesses and consulting with attorneys on teaching complex facts and presenting case arguments.

Alex received his Ph.D. and M.A. in Political Science, and a J.D. from the University of Michigan. He also has a B.A. in Politics from Pomona College. He writes a blog on the law in all facets of life and has performed extensive research on political theory and law. Alex is licensed to practice law in the State of California.

Teaching Fall 2020 Course: Introduction to Jury Selection.



Curtis Briggs

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Curtis Briggs is a trial attorney who has litigated some of the most significant cases in California history. In 2019, Mr. Briggs secured an acquittal for Max Harris in the notorious Ghost Ship Fire tragedy and successfully litigated *pro bono* on behalf of California's longest-serving death row inmate, Douglass Stankewitz. In 2014, Mr. Briggs was the lead attorney in *U.S. v. Chow* (aka Shrimp Boy), where he worked alongside the infamous J. Tony Serra.

Mr. Briggs received his JD from Golden Gate University, School of Law with an award for Academic Excellence in Criminal Law. Before becoming licensed to practice law, Mr. Briggs spent three years at the San Francisco Public Defenders Office as an intern and post-bar clerk. After becoming a licensed solo practitioner, Mr. Briggs quickly developed a reputation for aggressive public-interest litigation focusing primarily on criminal defense.

Mr. Briggs is currently the managing partner at Seville Briggs LLP in San Francisco.

Teaching Fall 2020 Course: Introduction to Expert Witnesses.



David Vogelstein

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

David Vogelstein grew up in New York City in the 1950s and 60s, the son of Jewish refugees who had escaped Nazi Germany. Until his teens, his family lived in a poor, rough neighborhood on the edge of Harlem. This tough environment forced David to develop the communication skills and street smarts that would become an invaluable asset in his career as a criminal defense lawyer.

While at college, David experienced the legal system firsthand. David and several other students took over a draft board in protest against the Vietnam War and the inequities of the military draft. David was arrested and spent 10 days in solitary confinement at the Worcester County jail. It was while incarcerated that David came to realize that his life's goal must be to help others within the criminal justice system, to defend the underdog, and speak for those with no voice.

After graduating from college in 1971, David attended Golden Gate University Law School in San Francisco. While in law school, he was awarded a judicial clerkship with Judge Donald Constine of the Superior Court of San Francisco. During this time David also worked for Robert Dorne, Esq., a nationally known criminal defense attorney. As a result, he was in court dozens of times before he graduated from law school. These early relationships and experiences greatly impacted David's understanding of effective criminal law advocacy.

David opened his law practice in San Francisco in 1976. He moved to Marin County in 1978, where he has lived and worked ever since.

Teaching Fall 2020 Course: Evidence in the Courtroom.