



GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW LITIGATION CENTER

Spring 2023 Faculty



Rachel R. Brockl

Litigation Center Director & Visiting Professor of Law

Professor Brockl is the Director of the Litigation Center 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 cum laude from San Francisco State University in 2010 with a major in Criminal Justice. She is a 2013 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.

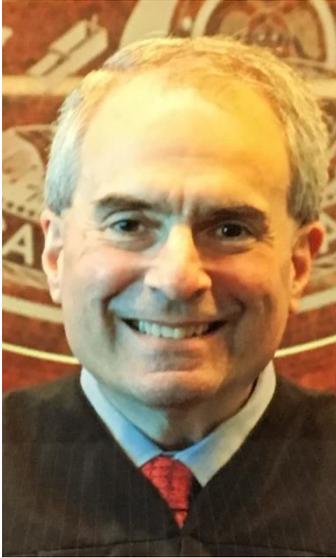
Since returning to GGU as the Litigation Center Director, Professor Brockl has created innovative opportunities for students. In 2020, she implemented the STEP Mentorship Program, which pairs a current STEP student with a STEP graduate of similar legal interests for additional support. Professor Brockl conducted live interviews with the high profile attorneys from the Netflix docuseries: *Making a Murderer* and *The Trials of Gabriel Fernandez*. After the latter interview, an audience member reached out to Professor Brockl and they collaborated to create the Gabriel Fernandez Scholarship in 2021. Professor Brockl has several recently published articles with the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) in Collective Wisdom pieces: "*Know Every Document and Piece of Evidence in Your File*," "*Closing Argument is for Warriors Who Know How to Have Fun*," "*Tempo*," and "*How to Overcome that one Damning Piece of Evidence at Trial*." She was asked to be the moderator and a speaker for a conference panel titled "Mock Trial - Protests, Penalties & Prejudice (Protests that Kill)" in the *2021 Training Advocates Conference: Back to the Future*. Professor Brockl was named a Top 40 Young Lawyer on the Rise in 2022 by the American Bar Association.

Teaching Spring 2023 Courses: Mock Trial (LAW899G) and Advanced Mock Trial (LAW899J) Introduction to Litigation (LAW706Z).



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Honorable Lewis A. Davis

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Judge Lewis Davis joins the Litigation Center to teach Trial Advocacy. He graduated with a B.A. with Honors in Philosophy from Clark University in Worcester, MA. After graduate studies at Georgetown University in philosophy as a University Fellow, Judge Davis worked for a regional planning agency in Northern Virginia reviewing applications for drug and alcohol and other criminal justice program grants as well as lobbying for legislative changes.

Judge Davis began his legal career serving as the Executive Director of the California Commission for the Revision of the Juvenile Court Law while completing his J.D. degree at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

Judge Davis served as a Deputy District Attorney in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for nearly seven years where his last assignment was to prosecute homicide and other high-profile cases.

Judge Davis next served as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) for the Northern District of California from 1990 to 2006. Principal duties included prosecuting narcotics trafficking and money laundering cases as a member of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and as the Training Director for both the Civil and Criminal Divisions of the United States Attorney's Office. During that time, he was awarded the Director's Award for Superior Performance as an AUSA for the prosecution of two individuals for human trafficking. While serving as an AUSA, Judge Davis was selected to provide training in the area of cross-examination of psychologists and psychiatrists to other AUSAs from around the country at the U.S. Attorney General's Advocacy Training Center.

Judge Davis was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006 to the Superior Court of Contra Costa County where he served until his retirement in 2022. During his tenure as a judge, Judge Davis taught at the Criminal Law Institute which provides training to California judges. His training was focused on the sea-change in evidence law that was created by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Crawford v. Washington. In 2017, the Chief Justice of California appointed Judge Davis to serve as member of the Commission on the Future of California Courts.

For many years both as a prosecutor and as a judge, Judge Davis participated in Stanford Law School's Advocacy Skills Workshop in the areas of evidence law and trial advocacy. He also has served as a moot court judge at most of the Bay Area's law schools for many years.

When asked about what he is looking forward to in regard to teaching litigation students, Judge Davis said, "I want to instill in law students, who aspire to be trial lawyers, the belief that anyone who is well-motivated can become an excellent trial lawyer, regardless of personality traits, and notwithstanding, concerns about being introverted and fearful of public speaking."

Teaching Spring 2023 Course: Trial Advocacy (LAW899B).



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Rebecca Brackman

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Rebecca Brackman is a Resource Attorney with the Contra Costa Public Defender's Office. In this position, Rebecca has mastered when an expert is needed in a criminal case, how to research them, where to find them, and how to prepare for qualifying, voir dire, and examinations. She presented a seminar series event for our STEP students on expert witnesses this past summer and, after overwhelmingly positive feedback, she will return this spring to teach Introduction to Expert Witnesses.

Teaching Spring 2023 Course: Introduction to Expert Witness (LAW897W).



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 Spring 2023 Courses: Advanced Communication for Attorneys (LAW855C) and Professional Presentation and Persuasion (LAW 855)



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 Spring 2023 Course: Introduction to Criminal Litigation (LAW837D)



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Jennifer Redding

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Jennifer Redding is a Bay Area native and a 2010 graduate of Golden Gate University, School of Law. In addition to her JD she received Certificates of Specialization in Criminal Law and Litigation. Jen participated in Mock Trial and was coached by Professor Wes Porter and Professor Bernie Segal. Jen interned at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office and worked with private attorneys in state and federal court. After passing the bar, Jen joined the San Francisco Public Defender's Office in the Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP) until 2012 when she was hired at the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office. She handles and tries various misdemeanor and felony cases and is currently assigned to the felony trial

team. Jen also engages in justice reform work by lobbying for bills at the state and federal level with various non-profit organizations including #Cut 50, Restore Justice, and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.

Teaching Spring 2023 Course: Introduction to Criminal Litigation (LAW837D).



Louie Castoria

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Louie Castoria has been a frequent presenter at continuing education events for decades. A professional liability defense and insurance coverage attorney throughout his 38-year legal career, Louie is Co-chair of Kaufman Dolowich & Voluck's firmwide Professional Liability Defense Federation.

Louie serves as a Hearing Officer under contract with the City and County of San Francisco, and recently began an independent mediation practice. In 2018, he founded a nonprofit corporation, the Coastal Literary Arts Movement, to promote literary appreciation and bilingual journalism in coastal communities.

As a weekly humor columnist, Louie uses humor and innovative presentation methods to make learning more enjoyable.

Teaching Spring 2023 Course: Civil Litigation Pre-Trial Practice (LAW897A).



Jody Mask

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Jody Mask is a trial attorney in Texas working for his own firm at Mask & Guerrero. He has secured over 71 million dollars in jury verdicts for his clients in a 3-year period, including the number one motor vehicle verdict in Texas in 2012.

A cum laude graduate of Texas A&M University, Order of Barristers from the University of Houston Law Center, and recipient of the Faculty Award from the Temple University Beasley School of Law LL.M. program in trial advocacy, Mr. Mask is a requested public speaker and community leader.

Teaching Spring 2023 Course: Strategic Jury Persuasion (LAW806S).



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Curtis L. 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, Douglas Stankewitz. In 2014, Mr. Briggs was a 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 Defender's 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. After working as a managing partner at Seville and Briggs LLP in San Francisco, he now runs his own firm Briggs Law in San Francisco.

Teaching Spring 2023 Course: Introduction to Litigation (LAW706Z).



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 Spring 2023 Course: Trial Advocacy (LAW899B).



Justin Myers

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Justin advises legal teams—both corporate and law firms—on issues involving electronically stored information (ESI), including custodian interviews, data mapping, defensible collection methodologies, the use of legal technology, review workflows, litigation contingency and readiness planning.

Justin has more than 18 years of experience in the litigation support industry, including leadership roles with in-house and outside counsel. He has presented numerous training seminars and MCLE courses on ESI subjects, including ethics in eDiscovery.

Justin has also been involved in some of the most notable cases dealing with discovery issues. In addition to cases with complex discovery issues, Justin has managed discovery in large scale litigation for a number of clients. He holds a J.D. from Golden Gate University School of Law and a B.S. from the University of San Francisco.

Teaching Spring 2023 Course: Introduction to eDiscovery (LAW876E).



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Jonathan Baum

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Jonathan Baum is a partner in the San Francisco office of Steptoe & Johnson. He is a member of the firm's Investigations & White Collar Group, where his practice focuses on representing individuals and companies in high-profile trade secret, economic espionage, bribery and fraud cases in federal and state courts across the country. He has also led sensitive internal investigations on behalf of leading companies and government agencies, including investigations of major police departments related to alleged officer misconduct.

Jonathan also serves on the Northern District of California's CJA Panel, representing indigent defendants in federal criminal matters. Prior to joining Steptoe, Jonathan practiced at the boutique criminal defense firms Clarence Dyer & Cohen LLP in San Francisco and Nolan Barton & Olmos LLP in Palo Alto.

Jonathan received his law degree from UC Berkeley in 2011, where he was Articles Editor of the California Law Review and a member of the California Asylum Representation Clinic. After law school, Jonathan served as a law clerk for the Honorable Marsha Pechman, United States District Court, Western District of Washington.

Teaching Spring 2023 Course: White Collar Crime in Practice (LAW710B).



Ross Weingarten

Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law

Ross Weingarten is an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of California, prosecuting criminal cases on behalf of the United States. He is currently in the Corporate Fraud Section, investigating and prosecuting white collar crimes such as wire fraud, money laundering, bank fraud, conspiracy, and many others. Many of Ross's investigations involve cryptocurrency, artificial intelligence, and other cutting edge technology. Previously, Ross served for almost three years in the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) section, investigating and prosecuting organized crime, drug cartels, and illegal opioid prescribers. Ross has tried multiple cases to jury, participated in numerous evidentiary hearings, and charged and resolved dozens of cases. He also serves as the Grand Jury Coordinator and the Narcotics Coordinator for the office, working with federal, state, and local law enforcement to coordinate narcotics prosecution policies.

Prior to becoming an AUSA, Ross worked at the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in both New York City and Washington, D.C. Ross was in their litigation section, working on behalf of clients in complex corporate litigation, white collar criminal and regulatory investigations, and multi-billion dollar lawsuits. Ross also had an active and thriving pro bono practice, representing both individuals and non-profits. Ross also clerked on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for U.S. District Court Judge Amit P. Mehta.

Ross graduated from the University of Texas Law School and Vassar College before that, where he was a member of the basketball team. Prior to law school, Ross worked in journalism and in the Office of Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice. He also lived in Kampala, Uganda, where he volunteered at an HIV clinic. In his free time, Ross enjoys wine tasting, road biking, and long hikes in the beautiful Bay Area with his wife, 2 year old daughter, and fluffy rescue mutt.

Teaching Spring 2023 Course: White Collar Crime in Practice (LAW710B).