

BRIDGETTE M. DE GYARFAS

Southwestern Law School
Room BW349
bdegyarfas@swlaw.edu

3050 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills

July 2022 – Present

Co-Director, Southwestern Evening Program

October 2020 – Present

Associate Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills

June 2019 – June 2022, June 2008 – January 2016

Director, Entertainment and Media Law LL.M. Online Program

June 2008 – January 2016

- *Courses:* Legal Writing, Selected Topics in American Law, Defenses in the Law, Bar Advantage, Academic Excellence, Academic Support Program
- *Current Committees:* Academic Standards Committee, Admissions Committee, Online/Low-Residency J.D. Program Committee, Student Support & Emergency Team Committee
- *Previous Committees:* Curriculum Committee, Externship Committee
- *Other Service:* Drafted LAWS 2021 and 2023 Spring Problems, Negotiation Coach and Judge, Moot Court Judge, Admissions Recruitment Events Host and Presenter, Space Law Faculty Advisor

CONCORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Assistant Dean of Students and Professor of Law

June 2001 – January 2011

RECOGNITIONS

Professor of the Year Nominee

2020-2021

EDUCATION

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL – Los Angeles, California

- Juris Doctor, May 1994
- Law Review: Managing Editor 1993/1994; Staff Member 1992/1993
- Moot Court Honors Program: 1992/1993
- Dean's List 1993/1994
- Research Assistant, Professor Linda Brackins

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY – Tempe, Arizona

- Bachelor of Science – Computer Information Systems, August 1984

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

SENIOR COUNSEL, Contract Attorney

Buchanan & Patterson, LLP

June 2015 – January 2019

Litigating trust issues before the Probate Court. Drafting petitions for instruction, briefs, legal memorandum, and conducting depositions. Working with clients on all aspects of estate planning issues, including drafting trusts and wills along with the durable power of attorney, HIPAA release, advance health care directive, certification of trust, assignment, and transfers of real property.

COUNSEL, Contract Attorney

KamberLaw, LLC

August 2016 – December 2016

Researched class action issues and drafted complaints. Researched and drafted a successful Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals brief involving the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d). Brief was for Plaintiff-Appellee wherein Plaintiff-Appellee requested that the Court deny Defendant-Appellant's Appeal and affirm the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri Court's order.

OWNER AND COACH

Law Coaches, LLC

May 2007 – July 2011

Owner and coach tutoring law students through law school as well as bar preparation. Managed a team of up to ten tutors. Was responsible for all aspects of the business, including payroll, accounts payable, and accounts receivable. Used QuickBooks Pro. Personally trained each tutor and worked one-on-one with students providing individualized tutoring based on students' specific learning styles and needs. In addition to tutoring substance, we taught students the law school rules, how to effectively and efficiently study, produce quality outlines, and draft quality law school essays.

OWNER

Bridgette M. de Gyarfas, Attorney at Law

December 2001 – December 2003

Sole practitioner specializing in the practice of general commercial litigation and bankruptcy law.

ASSOCIATE

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, L.L.P. (formerly Graham & James LLP) December 1999 – November 2001

General commercial litigator with expertise in Bankruptcy Law. Practice areas included Chapter 11 and 7 creditor work representing secured and unsecured lenders in business reorganization and other related commercial litigation. Specifically post-petition creditor representation in defense of preference actions and fraudulent conveyance suits and recovery of assets as well as creditor remedies including prosecution of actions under state and federal law. Case work involved protecting the intellectual property rights of a large Japanese client in two plan confirmation hearings in the Bankruptcy Court.

OWNER

de Gyarfas & Associates

September 1996 – December 1999

Previous owner of a law firm specializing in the practice of bankruptcy law and general litigation. Practice encompassed all areas of bankruptcy law including creditor and debtor work and work as counsel for chapter 7 trustees. Drafted contracts, negotiated deals on behalf of clients, and litigated civil actions. Handled bankruptcy cases *pro bono* for the Public Counsel Law Center. Litigated \$6.2 million Joint Venture dispute involving lottery winnings which resulted in settlement.

JUDICIAL LAW CLERK

The Honorable Kathleen P. March

August 1995 - September 1996

United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California

Reviewed and analyzed motions in preparation for the Judge's calendar, including extensive workups and bench memorandum for disclosure statements, plan confirmations, and summary judgment motions. Worked closely with the Clerk's Office to ensure the smooth operation of the Chambers. Developed extensive training materials for judicial externs. Supervised and trained judicial externs on a daily basis. Assisted in the creation of the district-wide Disclosure Statement and Plan Forms.

JUDICIAL LAW CLERK

The Honorable Alan M. Ahart, Kathleen P. March, and Vincent P. Zurzolo October 1994 - August 1995

United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California

Reviewed and analyzed motions in preparation for the Judges' calendar. Assisted in the training and supervision of the judicial externs. Created computer program for use by Deputy Clerk to automate entry of calendar information.

LAW CLERK

Marilee Marshall & Associates

August 1994 – October 1994

Reviewed trial transcripts and aided in the drafting of criminal appeals.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SUPERVISOR

Lockheed Aircraft Services, Ontario, CA.

December 1988 - April 1990

Supervised a staff of five in design of a communications command control system. Responsible for employee reviews, scheduling, status reports and hiring. Held Secret Clearance.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Hughes Training, Inc., West Covina, CA. August 1984 - December 1988, April 1990 - December 1991

Responsible for leading five engineers in the development of an audio / visual / graphics system on a large Air Force aircraft training and simulation project. Responsible for the development and integration of the F100-PW 220 Engine software for the F-15 Aircraft Maintenance Trainer. Developed and delivered presentations to customers and internal management. Drafted specifications, reports, and proposals. Held Secret Clearance.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND VICE-PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS

Mane Attraction, Inc., Claremont, CA.

January 1991 - May 1993

Principal of a full-service beauty salon. Responsible for general operations, payroll, inventory, accounts payable and receivable, personnel issues.

PUBLICATIONS

License to Lose, LOS ANGELES LAWYER (September 1997) (picture on the cover)

Right of Publicity v. Fiction-Based Art: Which Deserves More Protection?, 15 LOYOLA OF LOS ANGELES ENTERTAINMENT LAW JOURNAL 381 (1995).

CONTRIBUTIONS

Member of *The Working Group for Distance Learning in Legal Education* (2011 – 2012)