

JENNIFER F. MERTON, ESQ.

EDUCATION

University of Connecticut School of Law Hartford, CT

- J.D. with Honors May 1990
- Legal Research Assistant to Professor John Noyes
- Upperclass Writing Requirement on the Carriage of Goods by Sea
- Honors: American Jurisprudence Award for the Highest Grade in Evidence for the Fall of 1989.

Mount Holyoke College South Hadley, MA

- A.B. in Politics *cum laude* 1987
- The University of Rochester's Study Abroad Program and House of Commons Intern in London, England, Spring 1986.
- Honors: Sarah Williston Scholar (top 15% of class), October 1985; Mount Holyoke Delegate to the 1985 Conference on United States Affairs at the United States Military Academy.

EXPERIENCE

1990-Present Private, Part-Time Practice East Longmeadow, MA

Attorney at Law with Solo Practice

- Admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in December of 1990 after passing the July 1990 Bar Exam immediately following graduation.
- Primary practice area is estate planning and probate, elder law and long-term care planning, and family business planning and succession.
- Other practice experience includes environmental cases with a focus on wetlands issues, criminal law, family law, real estate, contracts, collections, bankruptcy, and internet issues, including copyright protection and jurisdiction concerns.

1987-Present Merton's Fiberglass Supply Springfield, MA

Office Coordinator for Family Business

- Developed business website and completed website redesign in conjunction with web design professionals. Also coordinated site's search engine placement, achieving top listings in many key word categories. Currently perform routine site maintenance and additions to site using the Dreamweaver computer program.
- Created twice yearly product catalogs, including the generation and editing of digital images, using Adobe's Pagemaker, InDesign, and Photoshop computer programs.
- Managed Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, and Business Records, including accounting and tax records.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Coordinator of the Law Lecturers at the Isenberg School of Management

- Enhanced communication among the law lecturers with regular meetings and e-mails, collaborated with other law lecturers in planning speakers for the Introduction to Law students, and developed a law lecturers blog to facilitate the sharing of legal information between faculty and students.
- Developed and taught an Honors Colloquium in Fall of 2012 and Spring of 2013 open to all Introduction to Law students each semester, providing additional honors opportunities for students in the Isenberg School and enhancing continuity in the law curriculum.
- Worked with other members of the Isenberg community to ensure that the law classes at Isenberg meet AACSB learning objectives, developed assessments for legal reasoning and ethics, and provided appropriate assessment data. Currently serving on the Assurance of Learning Committee within the Isenberg School of Management to provide guidance to and oversight of the assessment process.
- Participated in University events designed to enhance the student experience, including New Student Orientation and the Common Read, along with social events such as the Dash and Dine 5K. Most recently taught a First Year Seminar in conjunction with the common read "Orange is the New Black" that focused on the role of the lawyer in the criminal justice system.

Senior Lecturer in Law at the Isenberg School of Management

- Taught both the Introduction to Law and the Law of Enterprise Organization courses, along with Environmental Law, offered through the Management Department. Additionally, developed and taught the Honors Colloquium for Management 260. Incorporated ethical reasoning into all course curriculum, with a particular focus on ethics in the Introduction to Law course.
- Currently supervising three independent study projects ranging from the recent insider trading case to reach the Supreme Court of the United States, to regulatory initiatives under Dodd-Frank, to an analysis of the legal treatment of mandatory arbitration clauses. Previously supervised a Senior Honors Thesis tracing legal developments in the area of private securities litigation from *Basic v. Levenson* to *Erica John Fund, Inc.v. Haliburton*, as well as working with an independent study student on a two semester research project focusing on developments in derivatives regulations.

Lecturer in Law at the Isenberg School of Management

- Serving as advisor to the Isenberg Ethics Case Competition Team. We will be competing in the International Business Ethics Case Competition in April 2016. Served as advisor and accompanied the Isenberg Team to the Inter-Collegiate Business Competition at Queen's University in

Kingston, Ontario, Canada in January 2015, at which we won the Ethics Case Competition (placing first of six competing teams.) Also serving as advisor to the Isenberg Business Law Club since its inception in the 2014-2015 academic year.

- Developed an Environmental Law class, originally offered in the Spring of 2013 and which is now offered every Spring, which was designed as a component of the Management Department's Sustainability Concentration/Certificate. Completed a comprehensive review of textbooks and class materials in the area of environmental law. Attended the Association of Researchers in Corporate Sustainability Conference at Yale in May of 2012 to ensure inclusion of recent sustainability research in class materials and attended the Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education Environmental, Land Use, and Energy Law Conference in January of 2013 to discuss new laws and regulatory trends.
- Taught both the Introduction to Law and the Law of Enterprise Organization courses offered through the Management Department. Created the syllabus and all examinations and assignments for both courses, modifying each component every semester to respond to student comments and concerns and to reflect current trends in both teaching and the law.
- Generated a structured research and writing assignment for all courses to help students develop appropriate research and writing skills necessary for success in their professional lives, while also helping them to acquire substantive knowledge of the law and the American legal system. Worked with Barbara Morgan, the law reference librarian, both to create these assignments and to provide additional legal research training to students to facilitate their success. Also, generated assignments and class exercises to help students further develop their oral communication and advocacy skills.
- Worked with various members of the Isenberg community to enhance continuity between the core courses, including the development and implementation of a common core course assignment. Fully committed to continue to work with other faculty to enhance continuity in student learning and to further other goals for the Isenberg School.
- Provided extra assistance to students with questions about the class material or their research projects and other assignments, both during office hours and via e-mail or the telephone. Advised students interested in attending law school and wrote numerous letters of recommendation.
- Worked with many students on independent study projects, including a multi-semester project on Art Law, culminating in a Power Point Presentation offered to Introduction to Law students at the Isenberg School and in an Art Law Blog. Supervised a Commonwealth Honors College Capstone Thesis regarding the newly enacted Benefit Corporation Legislation in Massachusetts and the implications for social entrepreneurship and corporate sustainability, including a legal research component, as well as a qualitative research component involving interviews with benefit corporations and social entrepreneurs. In addition to the paper presented at the NARBLA Conference in April 2014, the project culminated with a panel of social entrepreneurs in

conjunction with Sustainable UMass and the Isenberg Law Lecturers.

1996-1999 Elms College Chicopee, MA
Assistant Professor and Adjunct Faculty

- Taught a variety of courses in the Paralegal and Legal Studies Department, including a two-semester introductory course entitled Legal Studies I and II, Advanced Legal Research and Writing, Principles of Litigation, Corporations, and Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation.
- Developed a newly offered course in Jurisprudence, which outlined the influences on judicial decision-making, while emphasizing the writing and oral communication skills of the students.
- Attended all faculty and department meetings, provided community outreach services on behalf of the college, and met with students for tutoring and advising.

1995-1996 University of Connecticut Storrs, CT
Adjunct Faculty at the School of Business

- Taught introductory Business Law and a course in Business Organizations, lecturing across a wide array of substantive legal topics, emphasizing ethics and the structure of the American Legal System
- Developed course materials, assignments, and exams. Supervised, edited, and graded a legal research and writing assignment each semester. Encouraged and mediated classroom discussions and generated small-group exercises to promote learning.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

1990 Superior Court, Tolland Judicial District Rockville, CT
Judicial Clerk of the Honorable Michael A. Mack, A.J.

- Researched and wrote drafts for court decisions on Trade Secrets Law and on the interpretation of separation agreements in divorce proceedings. Did legal research regarding various jury instructions and Connecticut child abuse statutes, in addition to discussing cases from the short calendar.

Summer 1989 Superior Court, Tolland Judicial District Rockville, CT
Temporary Assistant Clerk

- Observed courtroom proceedings, administered the Oath to witnesses, marked exhibits, wrote up judicial orders issued from the bench, and notified all parties of record when orders were issued. Reviewed judgments submitted by the parties, corresponded with attorneys, handled court files. Gained extensive familiarity with court forms and procedures.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS/RESEARCH

Jennifer F. Merton, Esq., *Planning for Incapacity and Death* (Initially prepared for a “Final Affairs Fair” in March of 1999, updated for a program of the same name in February of 2002, updated to reflect the myriad changes in the law for an Elder Law and Long-Term Care Insurance Seminar in October of 2003, and currently being updated for an upcoming event to reflect the recent adoption of the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code and the Massachusetts Uniform Trust Code.)

Jennifer F. Merton, Esq., *The Estate Planning Notebook* (Provided to clients to assist them in organizing their financial and estate planning documents, including wills, durable powers of attorney, health care proxies, and information about their finances and wishes to assist them and their families in the event of disability or death.)

Jennifer F. Merton, Esq., *Respecting the Wishes of the Grantor: New Developments and Developments under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code and the Massachusetts Uniform Trust Code* (current research projects/papers which I hope to present at the North Atlantic Regional Business Law Association in April of 2017.) I am also working on a paper regarding how to advise clients with special collections (art, wine, a family cottage, guns, ephemera, etc...).

Jennifer F. Merton, Esq. and Rishi Bahl (Senior Finance Major who completed his Commonwealth Honors College Capstone Thesis), *The Benefits of the Benefit Corporation? Implications for Corporate Sustainability* (current research project which we presented in April 2014 at the North Atlantic Regional Business Law Association. and which we are submitting for consideration to the *Business Law Review* (the peer-reviewed, official publication of the North Atlantic Regional Business Law Association.)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER AFFILIATIONS

Hampden County Bar Association, Massachusetts Bar Association, American Bar Association, Women’s Bar Association, and Pioneer Valley Estate Planning Council. Pending membership in the Western Massachusetts Estate Planning Council. Active member of Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts, serving as Troop Leader in East Longmeadow since 1988, and Program Chair of “Girl Scouts of Today: Lawyers of Tomorrow” since its inception in 1998.