

Paula Schaefer

Art Stolnitz Distinguished Professor of Law

University of Tennessee College of Law

[Faculty Bio](#) • [LinkedIn](#) • [SSRN](#)

Current Academic Appointment, Leadership, and Service

University of Tennessee College of Law

August 2008 – present

Art Stolnitz Distinguished Professor of Law

- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs January 2019-July 2023; Promotion 2017; Tenure 2012

Current Courses: Professional Responsibility; Civil Procedure (In Practice); Lawyering & Professionalism; Semester in Residence (Seminar and Program)

Additional Courses: Behavioral Legal Ethics, Civil Pre-Trial Litigation, E-Discovery, Business Associations

Current College Leadership & Service:

- Communications & Marketing Advisory Committee, Chair 2023-25
- Faculty Appointments Committee for Director of Center for Advocacy & Dispute Resolution, Chair 2024-25
- Faculty Appointments Committee for Director of Institute for Professional Leadership, Chair 2024-25
- Governance Committee, *ex officio* member 2019-2023; member 2009-2010 and 2024-25
- Institute for Professional Leadership Advisory Board, 2014-present
- Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, Chair 2023-25

Recent College Leadership & Service:

- ABA Self-Study Committee, Chair 2021-2023
- Academic Success Director Search Committee, Chair 2019-20
- Academic Standards & Curriculum Committee, Chair 2012-2014, 2016-2018, *ex officio* member 2019-2023
- Assessment Task Force, 2019-2023
- Cambridge Study Abroad Program, Faculty 2017
- Communications Director Search Committee, Chair 2023

Recent University Leadership & Service:

- Academic Assessment Council, 2019-present
- Development Director Search Committees, 2015, 2016, 2020, 2022
- Graduate Academic Operations Group (in response to COVID-19), 2020
- Provost's Tenured Faculty Advisory Council, 2023-2025
- SEC Academic Leadership Development Program, 2019-2020
- University of Tennessee Visioning Committee, 2020-21

Awards & Recognition

Bass, Berry & Sims Award for Outstanding Service to the Bench and Bar, 2011, 2019

Carden Award for Outstanding Service to the Institution, 2010, 2017, 2024

Extraordinary Leadership & Service Award, 2021

Harold C. Warner Outstanding Teacher Award, 2012

DICTA Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Journal, Knoxville Bar Association, 2023

Professional Service & Leadership

AALS Committee for Academic Freedom and Tenure

- Appointed by AALS President to a three-year term, 2023-2025

AALS Professional Responsibility Section

- Chair 2021
- Executive Committee Member, 2015-2021

Southeastern Association of Law Schools

- Program Committee, 2015-present

Contributor to the Column “Schooled in Ethics” published in the Knoxville Bar Association’s monthly journal DICTA, 2010-present

Hamilton Burnett Chapter of the American Inns of Court

- Member

Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam, National Conference of Bar Examiners

- Subject Matter Expert, 2018-present

Publications

Law Review Articles and Essays

Conditional Admission and the Hazards of Lawyer Assistance Programs Operating without Transparency or Oversight (work-in-progress).

The Motherhood Myth, Traditional Firms, and the Underrepresentation of Women, _ FIU LAW. REV. _ (forthcoming).

Collaborating to Create a 1L Professional Identity Curriculum, 20 U. ST. THOMAS L. J. 722 (2024) (with Joy Radice) (invited article).

Lawyers as Caregivers, 12 ST. MARY'S J. ON LEGAL MALPRACTICE & ETHICS 330 (2022) (invited article).

Behavioral Legal Ethics Lessons for Corporate Counsel, 69 CASE W. RES. L. REV. 975 (2019) (invited article).

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants, 86 TENN. L. REV. 647 (2019) (invited article).

"Trust Me" Versus Transparency in Civil Document Discovery, 50 U. TOL. L. REV. 491 (2019) (invited article).

Building on the Professionalism Foundation of Best Practices for Legal Education, 14 U. ST. THOMAS L. J. 320 (2018) (invited article).

Attorney Negligence and Negligent Spoliation: The Need for New Tools to Prompt Attorney Competence in Preservation, 51 AKRON L. REV. 607 (2017) (invited article).

Attorneys, Document Discovery, and Discipline, 30 GEO. J. LEGAL ETHICS 1 (2017).

In Pari Delicto Deconstructed: Dismantling the Doctrine that Protects the Business Entity's Lawyer from Malpractice Liability, 90 ST. JOHN'S L. REV. 1003 (2017).

On Balance: Leading by Leaving, 83 TENN. L. REV. 931 (2016) (invited article).

- Excerpt reprinted in: Hannah Brenner & Renee Knake Jefferson, *Gender, Power, Law & Leadership* (West Academic Publishing 2019).

A Primer on Professionalism for Doctrinal Professors, 81 TENN. L. REV. 277 (2014).

Technology's Triple Threat to the Attorney-Client Privilege, 2013 J. PROF. LAW. 171 (2013) (selected from an AALS Professional Responsibility Section call for papers).

Injecting Law Student Drama Into the Classroom: Transforming an E-Discovery Class (or Any Law School Class) with a Complex, Student-Generated Simulation, 12 NEV. L. J. 130 (2011).

Transactional Lawyers and Inadvertent Disclosure, 13 TRANSACTIONS: THE TENN. J. BUS. LAW 107 (2011).

Harming Business Clients with Zealous Advocacy: Rethinking the Attorney Advisor's Touchstone, 38 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 251 (2011).

The Future of Inadvertent Disclosure: The Lingering Need to Revise Professional Conduct Rules, 69 MD. L. REV. 195 (2010).

Protecting a Business Entity Client from Itself through Loyal Disclosure, 118 YALE L.J. POCKET PART 152 (2009).

Books and Book Chapters

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE LIFE OF THE LAWYER, 3rd EDITION (West Academic Publishing 2024) (with Alex Long & Cassandra Burke Robertson).

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (West Academic Publishing 2017) (with Alex Long).

Integrating Professionalism Into Doctrinally-Focused Classes, in BUILDING ON BEST PRACTICES: TRANSFORMING LEGAL EDUCATION IN A CHANGING WORLD (Lexis 2015).

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: CIVIL PROCEDURE (West Academic Publishing 2013).

Recent Knoxville Bar Journal Columns

U.S. Department of Justice Concludes that TBLE and TLAP are in Violation of ADA, DICTA (February 2025).

2024 Year in Review: ABA Formal Ethics Opinions, DICTA (November 2024).

Tennessee's Take on a Texas Ethics Dilemma, DICTA (August 2024).

Legal Ethics Issues in Succession Planning in Tennessee, DICTA (April 2024).

The Relevance for Tennessee Attorneys of the ABA's Amended Model Rule 1.16, DICTA (January 2024).

Refereed Business Law Journal Articles

Business Litigation in the Electronic Age: Recognizing and Addressing the Hazards of Privilege Disclosure Orders, 22 MIDWEST LAW J. 61 (2008).

- Award for Best Article in 2008 Volume

Overcoming Noneconomic Barriers to Loyal Disclosure, 44 AM. BUS. L. J. 417 (2007).

- Hoeber Award Recipient for Outstanding Article

Prior Professional Experience

University of Central Missouri

August 2004 – May 2008

Assistant Professor of Business Law

Harmon College of Business Administration

Courses: Graduate and undergraduate business law and business ethics courses

Bryan Cave LLP

August 2002 – August 2004

Associate

Commercial Litigation Practice Group; Appellate Practice Group

Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP

August 1997 – August 2002

Associate

Business Litigation Section

Supreme Court of Missouri

August 1996 - July 1997

Law Clerk to the Honorable Ann K. Covington

Bar Admission

Tennessee; Missouri (inactive status); Kansas (inactive status)

Education

University of Missouri School of Law

Columbia, Missouri

Juris Doctor, 1996

Notable Honors:

- Order of the Coif
- *Missouri Law Review*, Note & Comment Editor
- Charles G. Young, Jr. Memorial Award for Best Work in Professional Responsibility
- Guy A. Thompson Prize for Best Case Note

University of Missouri

Columbia, Missouri

Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Political Science, *Magna Cum Laude*, 1993

Notable Honors:

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Senior Honors Thesis, *Campaign Finance for Statewide Office: Toward Reform in Missouri*
- Curators Scholar, McNair Scholar

Selected Academic Presentations

Faculty Governance: A Crucial But Often Overlooked Component of the Law Professor's Professional Life, AALS Annual Meeting, January 8, 2025 (organizer and moderator).

Leadership in the Bar and Our Communities, A Symposium on Leadership in Law and Lawyering, University of Tennessee College of Law Institute for Professional Leadership, Knoxville, Tennessee, October 25, 2024 (moderator).

Attorney Well-Being Discussion Group, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, July 25, 2024.

Mindfulness: What it Means to Us and How We Teach It, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, July 23, 2024.

Integrating Attorney Well-Being Into the Professional Responsibility Curriculum, Conference on Professional Responsibility and Professional Identity Formation, Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions, University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 20, 2024.

Teaching Tips for New Law Professors: How to Incorporate Professional Identity Formation in Your Teaching, Foundation Press Webinar, August 23, 2023.

From Student to Lanyer: Infusing Professional Identity Formation into the Required Curriculum, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Boca Raton, Florida, July 26, 2023.

Mindfulness in Legal Education, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Boca Raton, Florida, July 26, 2023.

Creating a Professional Identity Curriculum for 1Ls through Collaboration, Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions, University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 22, 2023 (with Joy Radice).

Gender, Power, Law & Leadership Roundtable, 7th Global Meeting on Law & Society, ISCTE University Institute of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal, July 15, 2022.

Big Law, Big Discovery, Big Trouble: Arnold & Porter and the Opioid Discovery Controversy, Jacob Burns Center for Ethics in the Practice of Law, Cardozo School of Law, April 7, 2022.

Lawyers as Caregivers, St. Mary's Twenty-First Annual Symposium on Legal Malpractice & Ethics, San Antonio, Texas, January 28, 2022.

From Watergate to Insurrection: Fifty Years of Legal Ethics in the U.S., American Association of Law Schools, January 7, 2022 (organizer and moderator).

Professional Responsibility in Our Turbulent Times, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Amelia Island, Florida, July 29, 2021.

Incorporating Racial Justice Issues in the Classroom, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Amelia Island, Florida, July 26, 2021.

Roundtable with John Dean and Professional Responsibility Professors, Professional Responsibility Section, AALS, May 12, 2021 (organizer and moderator).

Effective Individual and Institutional Responses to Bias, Women's Leadership in Academia Conference, University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, Virginia, July 18, 2019 (with Melanie Wilson, Teri Baxter, and Joy Radice).

Behavioral Legal Ethics Lessons for Corporate Counsel, Leet Symposium: Fiduciary Duty, Corporate Goals, and Shareholder Activism, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, Ohio, November 2, 2018.

"Trust Me" Versus Transparency in Civil Document Discovery, Toledo Law Review Symposium on the Role of Technology in Professional Advice, University of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, Ohio, October 12, 2018.

Leadership Challenges and Solutions Over the Course of a Career, Women's Leadership in Academia Conference, Athens, Georgia, July 19, 2018 (with Melanie Wilson and Joy Radice).

Attorney Negligence and Negligent Spoliation, Akron Law Review Civil Discovery Symposium, University of Akron School of Law, Akron, Ohio, April 6, 2018.

The Ethics of Legal Education, American Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, San Diego, California, January 6, 2018 (organizer and moderator).

Reinforcing Student Understanding of Civil Procedure Using Skills Exercises, San Diego, California, January 5, 2018.

Building on Best Practices: Professional Identity, Role Assumption, and Other Professional Skills Across Learning Experiences, Midwest Clinical Legal Education Conference, Lawrence, Kansas, October 14, 2017 (with Melanie DeRousse and Carolyn Kaas).

Integrating Professionalism Throughout the Curriculum, Villanova University School of Law, Villanova, Pennsylvania, March 29, 2017.

Building on the Professionalism Foundation of Best Practices for Legal Education, Symposium on the Next Steps of a Professional Formation Social Movement in Legal Education and the Legal Profession, University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 18, 2017.

Selected Presentations to the Bar & Community

Ethics of Entity Formation in Tennessee, TBA Business Law Forum 2025, Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville, Tennessee, April 24, 2025.

Attorney Ethics in the Use of—and Refusal to Use—Generative Artificial Intelligence, A Nightmare in Practice: The Día de los Muertos CLÉeeek!, Knoxville Latino Bar Association, Knoxville, Tennessee, November 3, 2024.

The Changing Ethical Landscape for Business Lawyers, University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville, Tennessee, September 20, 2024 and November 1, 2024 (with Lonnie T. Brown, Jr.).

Professional Conduct Issues in Succession Planning, Hamilton Burnett Chapter of the American Inns of Court, Knoxville, Tennessee, April 9, 2024.

The Motherhood Myth, East Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women, Knoxville, Tennessee, January 31, 2024.

Government Ethics for New Tennessee Legislators, Baker Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee, January 4, 2023 (with Doug Overbey).

Government Lawyer Ethics 2022, Nashville Bar Association Government Practice & Professionalism Institute, Nashville, Tennessee (via Zoom), December 9, 2022.

2022 Attorney Ethics Update, University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville, Tennessee, October 21, 2022 (with Lonnie T. Brown, Jr.); Tennessee Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee (via Zoom), June 16, 2022; and TENSOS Conference, Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 13, 2022 (with Alex Long).

Ethical Challenges for Government Lawyers, Nashville Bar Association Government Practice & Professionalism Institute, Nashville, Tennessee (via Zoom), December 10, 2021.

2021 Attorney Ethics Update, Tennessee Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee (via Zoom), December 9, 2021.

Knoxville Bar Association's Ethics Bowl, Program Co-Host and Contributor, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2014-2021.

Government Lawyer Ethics, Nashville Bar Association Government Practice & Professionalism Institute, Nashville, Tennessee (via Zoom), December 11, 2020.

Attorney Ethics in Appellate Practice, Tennessee Supreme Court Academy, Knoxville, Tennessee, November 4, 2020.

2020 Attorney Ethics Update, Tennessee Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee (via Zoom), October 29, 2020.

Ethical and Legal Obligations of Supervising Lawyers Under Tennessee's "Supervised Practice" Rule, Knoxville and Memphis, Tennessee, May 20, 2020 (with Jodi Wilson and Brad Morgan).

Ethics for Government Lawyers, Nashville Bar Association Government Practice & Professionalism Institute, Nashville, Tennessee, December 18, 2019.

Ethics in Civil Litigation Practice, Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee, September 20, 2019.

Gender Bias and Professional Conduct Obligations: A Practical Approach, ETLAW, Knoxville, Tennessee, July 25, 2019.

2019 Attorney Ethics Update, Tennessee Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee, June 13, 2019.

Professional Conduct Obligations, Gender Bias, and the Legal Profession, ETLAW & Law Women CLE Program, Knoxville, Tennessee, April 17, 2019.

Selected Workshop and Educational Program Participation

Hybrid Workplaces and Hybrid Teaching, West Academic Publishing, St. Paul, Minnesota, June 6-8, 2022.

Evidence Summer Workshop, Vanderbilt University School of Law, August 6, 2021 (commentator).

6th Annual Leading Edge Conference, Wolters Kluwer, Chicago, Illinois, July 8-10, 2019.

ABA Associate Deans Conference, Chicago, Illinois, June 25-28, 2019.

MPRE Item Development Workshops, National Conference of Bar Examiners, Madison, Wisconsin, 2018, 2019.

Professional Formation Workshop, Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Profession, Chaska, Minnesota, June 21-24, 2018.

Consortium on Teaching E-Discovery, Sixth Annual University of Florida Law E-Discovery Conference, March 28-30, 2018.