

Laura Bergus

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Education

Juris Doctor

The University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa, May 2011

- Ranked sixth in class of 190 students, 3.89 GPA
- Dean's Award for Academic Excellence recipient, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010
- Hancher-Finkbine Medallion nominee, Spring 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, minor in Asian Languages, special honors, highest distinction

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, May 2002

- Phi Beta Kappa Society member

Professional Experience

Student Legal Intern, University of Iowa College of Law Legal Clinic, Iowa City, Aug. 2010–May 2011

- Counseled clients in public benefits, employment benefits, and assistive technology cases
- Conducted public health care policy research
- Filed plaintiff's ERISA brief in federal district court
- Negotiated employment benefits settlements with large insurance providers

Social Media Policy & Tech Consultant, Bradley & Guzzetta, St. Paul, MN, April 2010–present

- Advise local governments, businesses, and non-profits on social media policy and technology
- Implement technology and Internet policy, from drafting to training
- Research and write advisory memoranda on communications law issues

Special Technology Project Administrative Assistant, Iowa Legal Aid, April 2010–present

- Create interactive board governance portal for statewide legal services organization

Research Assistant to Peggie Smith, University of Iowa College of Law, Aug. 2009–April 2010

- Researched legal and interdisciplinary topics
- Drafted topical research memoranda

Legal Intern, Montana Legal Services Association, Helena, Montana, Summer 2009

- Researched and wrote legal advice scripts for HelpLine attorneys
- Provided live, real-time legal information assistance online
- Drafted and recommended policy for social media and multimedia technology use

Web Designer and Social Media Consultant, Freelance, Iowa City, Iowa, Fall 2008–present

- Create websites for institutions and non-profits, including UI College of Law
- Contribute to multiple national blogs on legal and social media issues

Telecommunications Director and Webmaster, City of North Liberty, Iowa, 1998–2008

- Negotiated long-term franchise agreements with telecommunications providers
- Coordinated government information in print, video and online for public consumption
- Managed departmental budget and departmental staff and volunteers

Public Service

- Iowa City Telecommunications Commission, vice chair, March 2009–present
- Iowa Legal Aid, website and LiveHelp volunteer, February 2009–August 2010
- Johnson County Livable Communities Initiative, Website Action Team chair, 2007–2009
- Homelessness in Iowa documentary project, director, 2008
- Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce Steering Committee, member 2004–2008
- Iowa League of Cities Cable Franchise Advisory Board, member, 2007
- Liberty Centre Blues & BBQ planning committee, chair 2007–2008, member 2009
- North Bend Historical Society, North Liberty, Iowa, founding member
- Blue Ribbon Award for Outstanding Service, Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce, 2002
- Hardest Working Person in Access, Iowa City Public Access Television, 2001

Professional Activities

- Sustainable City Network, guest columnist, May 2011-present
- Hennepin County, Minn., Bar Association, three-hour ethics CLE presenter, March 30, 2011
- Minnesota Telecom Alliance Annual Convention, presenter, March 29, 2011
- Lawyerist webinar, presenter, March 2, 2011
- Law and Policy in the Media, SUNY Buffalo Law School, guest lecturer, January 12, 2011
- Ramsey County, Minn., Bar Association, three-hour ethics CLE presenter, October 26, 2010
- WATOA annual conference, presenter, October 21, 2010
- *6Ps of the BIG 3* (book), featured law student, September 2010
- Law Librarian Conversations, panelist, September 3, 2010
- *Responsible Social Media Use for Cities*, NATOA Newsletter, author, September 2010
- Regional Communications Law Forum CLE, attendee and contributor, June 9, 2010
- *US News & World Report*, featured law student, law school rankings edition, April 2010
- Law of Electronic Media, UI College of Law course, guest lecturer, November 11-12, 2009
- Lawyerist.com, contributing writer, October 2009-present
- Legal Geekery, podcast co-host and blogger, September 2009-present
- UI College of Law Career Services program, presenter, September 4, 2009
- CALI webinar, panelist, July 10, 2009
- CALI annual conference, presenter, June 18, 2009
- Homelessness in Iowa, UI College of Law Lawyers & Leaders program, organizer and presenter, March 5, 2009

Personal Interests

- Cooking and food writing
- Video direction and production
- Blogging and podcasting
- Catch-and-release fishing