

DEREK H. KIERNAN-JOHNSON

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EDUCATION	University of Michigan Law School <i>Juris Doctor</i>	1997–2000
	Oxford University <i>Graduate work, English Cathedral Architecture, Wadham College</i>	1997
	Princeton University <i>Ars Baccalaureate, Religion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Junior Paper: <i>Experiencing Toxcatl</i> (analyzed Aztec sacrificial ritual from its victim's perspective)• Senior Thesis: <i>Durch Sühn und Buß der Gnade Heil: Suffering and Salvation in the Operas of Ricard Wagner</i>	1993–1997
EMPLOYMENT	University of Colorado Law School <i>Teaching Professor of Law</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach predictive legal writing, persuasive legal writing, legislative drafting, and judicial-opinion writing• Research, present, and publish on topics in legal communication and rhetoric• Perform service for the law school, university, and legal community	2007–present
	Caplan and Earnest LLC <i>Attorney at Law</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counseled school boards, school administrators, and teachers• Drafted policies, regulations, and contracts• Crafted pleadings; argued before administrative, trial, and appellate courts• Led client trainings, seminars, and roundtables• Managed and edited firm's quarterly <i>Colorado School Law Reporter</i>• Oversaw firm's law-clerk program	2001–2007
	Supreme Court of Colorado <i>Law Clerk, Hon. Justice Michael L. Bender</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wrote memoranda recommending action on petitions for certiorari• Drafted and edited judicial opinions	2000–2001

SELECTED
PUBLICATIONS

Purple Zones and Traffic Cones: Navigating Bluebook & Redbook Overlaps 2024
5 Proceedings 17 (refereed journal)

A Grammar of Legal Thought 2021
18 Legal Comm. & Rhetoric 169 (book review, refereed journal)

The Potemkin Temptation, or, The Intoxicating Effect of Rhetoric and Narrativity on American Craft Whiskey 2018
15 Legal Comm. & Rhetoric 1 (lead article, refereed journal)

A Shift to Narrativity 2012
9 Legal Comm. & Rhetoric 81 (refereed journal)

“Losing Twice: Harms of Indifference in the Supreme Court” 2011
40 Colo. Law. 114 (book review)

Telling Through Type: Typography and Narrative in Legal Briefs 2010
7 J. ALWD 87 (refereed journal)

SELECTED
PRESENTATIONS

Visual Storytelling & Constitutive Rhetoric in French Wine Labeling London, UK
Ninth Applied Legal Storytelling Conference 2023

The Purposes of Style in Judicial Opinions Vail, CO
Colorado Judicial Conference 2022

Stock Structures and Legislative Drafting (Online/remote)
Eighth Applied Legal Storytelling Conference 2021

The Rhetoric of Writing Negative Credibility Determinations Boulder, CO
Seventh Applied Legal Storytelling Conference 2019

Framing Asides in Predictive Writing Las Vegas, NV
Fourteenth Annual Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference 2014

The Seductiveness of Narrative Momentum London, UK
Fourth Applied Legal Storytelling Conference 2013

Legal Writing’s Role in Document-Design Policy-Making Palm Desert, CA
Fourteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute 2012
• Panelist with Richard Neumann, Ruth Anne Robbins, and Matthew Butterick

Torture Memo as Teaching Tool Tempe, AZ
Twelfth Annual Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference 2012

Refining Our Vocabulary: “Narrative” and “Story(telling)” Denver, CO
Third Applied Legal Storytelling Conference 2011
• Panelist with Brian Foley & Michael Higdon

SELECTED SERVICE	<p>Chair, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Scholarship Group <i>Universities of Colorado, Denver, and Wyoming</i></p> <p>Chair, Teaching Faculty Evaluations Committee <i>University of Colorado Law School</i></p> <p>Chair, Adjunct Committee <i>University of Colorado Law School</i></p> <p>Director, Legal Writing Program <i>University of Colorado Law School</i></p> <p>Chair, Technology Committee <i>University of Colorado Law School</i></p> <p>Chair, Model Visual-Design Committee <i>Legal Writing Institute</i></p> <p>Chair, IT Director Search Committee <i>University of Colorado Law School</i></p> <p>Co-Chair, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference <i>University of Colorado Law School</i></p> <p>Invited Peer Reviewer, Legal Comm. & Rhetoric</p> <p>Invited Consultant, Typography & Graphic Design <i>(Various entities & organizations)</i></p> <p>Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served as member of orchestra’s Executive Board of Directors • Chaired orchestra’s Artistic Committee, overseeing programming, venue, performance, and artistic collaborations • Wrote program notes for concerts 	<p>2024–present (member since 2011)</p> <p>2024–present</p> <p>2018–2024</p> <p>2013–2014</p> <p>2011–2013, 2015</p> <p>2012–2014</p> <p>2011–2012</p> <p>2012–2013</p> <p>2011–present</p> <p>2009–present</p> <p>2007–2011</p>
CURRENT INTERESTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>English football</i>. Support Chelsea men & women and English national teams • <i>Beverages</i>. Distillates, esp. aged spirits; wine, esp. Burgundian & N. Italian • <i>Cooking</i>, esp. French & Italian • <i>Photography</i>, esp. landscape & nature • <i>Music</i>, such as chamber, orchestral, and choral; opera & musical theatre • <i>Games of skill & chance</i>, such as chess, backgammon, and poker • <i>Tracking & identification</i> of birds, cultural trends, and mammals 	