

Nicole Downing
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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina School of Information and Library Science, Chapel Hill, NC
MSLS, May 2014

University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, NC
JD, May 2012

Emerson College, Boston, MA
BS in Communication Studies, May 2009
Concentrations: Marketing Communications and Writing, Literature, & Publishing

LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

Kathrine R. Everett Law Library, Chapel Hill, NC

Librarian (July 2024 – Present); Associate Librarian (July 2019 – July 2024); Assistant Librarian (July 2016 – July 2019)

<i>Assistant Director for Public Services</i>	June 2021 – Present
<i>Head of Reference Services</i>	July 2018 – May 2021
<i>Interim Head of Access Services</i>	June 2020 – May 2021
<i>Reference Librarian</i>	July 2016 – June 2018

- Manage the law library's reference department, including research and reference services, reference personnel, and reference desk operations and policies
- Manage the law library's access services and physical space, including circulation operations and policies, borrowing and lending services, access services staff, room reservations, furniture, and building issues in coordination with facilities and housekeeping.
- Oversee all research instruction and development of the Advanced Legal Research curriculum, including syllabus review, mentoring of librarian faculty, coordinating teaching workshops, and support of new teaching pedagogies
- Serve on the law library management team by contributing ideas and feedback on library operations and services
- Prepare annual statistics reports of reference and access services departments for accreditation and reporting purposes
- Oversee the faculty research service and coordinate the faculty liaison program to provide service to approximately 60 law faculty members
- Coordinate requests for research appointments and legal research class instruction from student and faculty members of the UNC-CH campus community
- Serve as administrator to the LibGuides platform, including maintaining over 40 legal research guides and managing the creation of new guides
- Serve as the vendor liaison to Westlaw Precision, Lexis+, and Bloomberg Law
- Facilitate and edit the Carolina Blog

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Clinical Professor of Law, UNC School of Law

January 2026 – Present

Clinical Associate Professor of Law, UNC School of Law

October 2020 – December 2025

Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, UNC School of Law

July 2017 – October 2020

Advanced Legal Research (3 credits, experiential)

- Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Fall 2024; Fall 2025

Advanced Legal Research (2 credits, experiential, asynchronous)

- Summer 2022, Summer 2023, Summer 2025

Transactional Law Research (1 credit, experiential)

- Fall 2022, Spring 2025

Guest Lecturer on Legal Research

Advanced Legal Research: IP & Technology, UNC School of Law

Spring 2017

Animal Law, UNC School of Law

Fall 2021

International Human Rights, UNC School of Law

Fall 2018

Legal Issues in Collegiate Sports, UNC College of Arts and Sciences

Fall 2019 & Fall 2020

Legal Response to the Financial Crisis, UNC School of Law

Spring 2020, 2023, & 2025

Media Law, UNC School of Media and Journalism

Fall 2016, Fall 2019, & Fall 2020

North Carolina Legal Research, UNC School of Law

Spring 2024

Privacy Law, UNC School of Law

Fall 2016, Spring 2018, & Spring 2019

School Law & Public Policy, UNC School of Education

Fall 2016

Race and the Law, UNC School of Law

Spring 2020

University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, FL

Summer 2015 Externship Course

Criminal Law Research Module

Summer 2015

Working with Documents Research Module

Summer 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Balancing Competition in Gamified Legal Education: Engaging and Motivating Law Students with Competitive Polling, in READY OR NOT, HERE THEY COME! USING GAMES IN LEGAL EDUCATION TO ENGAGE NEXT-GEN STUDENTS (Tanya Johnson and Jessica de Perio Wittman, eds.) (forthcoming).

Using Content and Tone to Deliver Effective Feedback on Legal Research, 116 LAW. LIB. J. 159 (2024).

The Five-Minute Exercise: A Method of Using Modified Lectures in the Legal Research Classroom, 38 LEGAL REFERENCE SERVS. Q. 1 (2019).

Book Review, Stories from Trailblazing Women Lawyers by Jill Norgren, 111 LAW LIB. J. 451 (2019).

Designing and Implementing Research Competency Assessment with Anu Pal and Theresa Tarves, AALL SPECTRUM 15 (March/April 2019).

Program Review, Reference Analytics for Data-Driven Decision Making, 38(1) ALL-SIS NEWSLETTER 28 (2018).

Contributing Blogger, RIPS Law Librarian Blog, Research, Instruction, and Patron Services Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (Fall 2017 – Spring 2018).

Book Review, The Copyright Book: A Practical Guide, Sixth Edition by William S. Strong, 107 LAW LIB. J. 460 (2015).

Program Review, International Attorneys and LLM Students: Filling Research Gaps, 35(1) ALL-SIS NEWSLETTER 10 (2015).

The UNC Law Library's Redaction of Its Digitized Collection of North Carolina Supreme Court Briefs: A Case Study, AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Winner 2014, available at: <https://www.aallnet.org/community/recognition/awards-program/aalllexisnexis-call-for-papers-awards/>.

Using Fair Use to Stop a Copyright Troll from Threatening Hyperlinkers, 12 N.C. J.L. & TECH. ON. 119 (2011).

PRESENTATIONS

Teaching Workshops for Law Librarians with Andrew Wisniewsky, Southeastern Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, March 2025.

Demystifying GenAI: The Future of Law and Technology, 79West Innovation Hub, Pittsboro, NC, November 2024.

Getting Published: Edits and the Publication, Panelist, AALL Coffee Chat, February 2024.

Generative AI in Legal Education & Practice with Pete Nemerovski, Festival of Legal Learning, Chapel Hill, NC, February 2024.

Preparing Law Students for the Use of AI in Legal Practice, Dan K. Moore Program in Ethics: Generative AI for Lawyers, Chapel Hill, NC, November 2023.

Librarian as Author, Panelist, AALL Coffee Chat, July 2023

Quick Tips: Delivering Meaningful Feedback, Teaching the Teachers Conference, Houston, TX, May 2023.

Teaching Students to Use Free and Low Cost Legal Resources, with Aaron Kirschenfeld, Southeastern Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA, March 2023.

Working with Law Librarians, with Annalee Hickman Pierson, Benjamin Keele, and Andy Lang, Scribes Second Sunday Webinar Series, September 11, 2022.

Librarian as Author, Moderator, AALL Virtual Program, July 2022.

Delivering Effective Student Feedback, Teaching the Teachers Conference, Portland, OR, May 2022.

Winning the AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers, Moderator, AALL Coffee Chat, December 2021.

Brief Analyzers: Using Artificial Intelligence to Improve your Legal Research with Melissa Hyland, Festival of Legal Learning, Chapel Hill, NC, February 2020.

Assessing Legal Research Competency: Bridging the Gap Between Law School and Practice with Jennifer Davitt, Taryn Rucinski, and Kelly McGlynn, American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., July 2019.

Encouraging the Librarian Author with Workshops, Poster Presentation at American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., July 2019.

Encouraging the Librarian Author with Workshops with Anne Klinefelter and Aaron Kirschenfeld, Southeastern Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Hot Springs, VA, March 2019.

Algorithms and the Impact on Legal Research with Melissa Hyland, Festival of Legal Learning, Chapel Hill, NC, February 2019.

Wikipedia in the Legal Research Classroom, CALICOn 2018, Washington, D.C., June 2018.

Comparing Case Results Across Databases with Melissa Hyland, Festival of Legal Learning, Chapel Hill, NC, February 2018.

Docket Research: Online Access to Court Filings with Allison Symulevich, Festival of Legal Learning, Chapel Hill, NC, February 2017.

The Librarian as Author, Panel at American Association of Law Libraries Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, July 2014.

SOPA: Is it Really Dead? And What Does it Mean to You? with Lolly Gasaway and David Levine, sponsored by the Carolina Intellectual Property Law Organization, Chapel Hill, NC, Spring 2012.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, COMMITTEES & AWARDS

Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing

Editor in Chief	2024 – Present
Assistant Editor in Chief	2022 – 2024
Editorial Board Member	2021 – 2022

American Association of Law Libraries	2013 – Present
Chair, RIPS PR & Recruitment Committee	2025 – 2026
Member, SEAALL Program Committee	2025 – 2026
Council of SIS Chairs	
Chair	2024 – 2025
Member	2022 - 2024
RIPS Executive Board	
Past Chair	2024 – 2025

Chair	2023 – 2024
Vice Chair	2022 – 2023
Member at Large	2020 – 2022
Chair, RIPS Program Committee	2022 – 2023
Chair, AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee	2021 – 2022
Member, ALL-SIS Research and Scholarship Committee	2019 – 2022
Member, RIPS-SIS Mentorship and Outreach Committee	2021 – 2022
Member, RIPS-SIS Legal Research Competencies Committee	2017 – 2019
Vice-Chair, ALL-SIS Student Services Committee	2018 – 2019
Jurist, Law Library Journal Article of the Year Award Jury	2017 – 2018

University of North Carolina	
School of Law Admissions Committee	2018 – Present
Kathrine R. Everett Law Library Scholarship Workshop Committee	2018 – Present
Digital and Lifelong Learning Committee	2022 – 2024

Kathrine R. Everett Award of Merit	2018 & 2024
Teaching the Teachers Conference Teaching Mentor	2023
AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award: Open Division	2023
AALL Leadership Academy Fellow	2020
AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award: Student Division	2014
North Carolina State Bar (<i>inactive</i>)	