

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## **Cindy Simmons**

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## **EDUCATION**

**J.D. University of Washington School of Law, 2006.**

Curricular emphasis on First Amendment law, Constitutional law, and copyright. Chosen to represent the UW in Vanderbilt's First Amendment Moot Court on school free speech rights in 2005 and on reporter shield laws in 2006. Winner of the 2003 UW Mediation Competition and chair of the 2005 competition. President of organization for nontraditional law students, 2005-06. Member of Moot Court Honor Board, 2004-06.

**M.A. Journalism, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1990.**

Coursework in advanced reporting, minority affairs reporting, consumer investigative reporting, Native American treaties, and copy editing.

**B.A. Anthropology, Macalester College, 1985.** Curricular emphasis in ethnographic interviewing and cultural anthropology. Edited campus magazine.

**Berea College, 1982-83.** Coursework in English, anthropology, and political science. Won Kentucky Intercollegiate Press Association award for opinion column in *The Pinnacle* (campus newspaper).

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND COURSES TAUGHT**

Senior Lecturer, College of Communications, The Penn State University, 2011-present.

Media Law (403)

Legal Journalism

Reporting Methods (440)

Entrepreneurial Journalism (with Anne Hoag and Curt Chandler)

International Reporting (with Tony Barbieri)

Lecturer, Department of Communication, University of Washington, 2006-2011.

**Mass Media Law.** Taught the law that applies to journalists working in mass media, including First Amendment law, libel law, broadcast regulation, copyright, and access to public meetings and records. Course emphasized developing professional ethical standards above the minimum required by law and offers practical advice on reducing the likelihood of libel suits.

**First Amendment.** Presented First Amendment law with a case-oriented approach designed to teach legal reasoning. Students argued cases in a format modeled on that used by the U.S. Supreme Court. Course covered the role of courts in shaping society and the political nature of the Supreme Court.

**Legislative Reporting Internship.** For three years, advised UW interns who covered the Washington Legislature. Some of the students were in the Olympia bureaus of the state's major media. Others were the sole legislative reporters for smaller newspapers. Intense one-on-one instruction in navigating the complex capitol power structure. Legal and ethical questions were addressed as they arose in the course of the students' reporting.

**Advanced Reporting and Newswriting.** Taught newswriting and reporting in a hybrid lecture/workshop format. Included deadline writing, covering trauma, writing for the ear, finding news, and interviewing.

**Reporting.** Students were taught to write profiles, cover government meetings, and do basic enterprise reporting. Included a one-day libel law training.

**Writing for Publication.** Taught journalistic writing to evening degree students. Emphasis on Associated Press style and choosing the most effective voice and tone for stories.

**Negotiation.** Students developed strategic negotiation skills appropriate for a variety of real-life conflict scenarios. Simulations included a renegotiation of an employment contract, media access to police records, discussions to settle a libel claim and a hostage negotiation.

Lecturer, Digital Media Masters in Communication, University of Washington, 2003.

**Writing and Presentation for Digital Media.** Taught journalistic approaches to writing content for the Internet in the UW's Master of Communication in Digital Media program. Course emphasized writing for an impatient audience by making appropriate choices about voice, length and structure. Also covered libel law and professional ethics.

Instructor, Bellevue Community College (Bellevue, Wash.), 2002-03, 2005.

**First Amendment.** Introduced First Amendment law to community radio reporters and community access television producers. The course gave students practical training on the Constitution's free speech and free press protections to encourage the full exercise of those rights when reporting. Major topics included the history of the First Amendment, libel, obscenity, and using the Freedom of Information Act to gain access to government documents.

**Reporting.** Trained new community radio reporters in hands-on classes at KBCS-FM. Covered questions of objectivity in community media, developing sources through social and organizational networks, and broadcast law. Students recorded sound in the field, then produced stories using digital editing software.

## SCHOLARLY WRITING

### Publications

“Snyder v. Phelps: Narrow and in keeping with First Amendment Precedent,” submitted by invitation for the 2012 Free Speech Yearbook.

“There’s more than one way to legislate: An integration of representative, direct, and deliberative approaches to democratic governance.” *University of Colorado Law Review*, 72 (2001), 1005-1028 (with John Gastil and Mark Smith). Conducted and analyzed in-depth interviews on initiative reform with political activists.

### Theatrical Writing

“Riot Walkers.” Play based on reporter Ernie Mills’ role in negotiating an end to the 1980 riot at the Penitentiary of New Mexico. Conducted interviews and archival research. Play scheduled for a reading at FUSE Productions in October, 2018.

“The Oracle of the Desert.” Play based on Steve Bannon’s work at Biosphere 2 and the ensuing lawsuits. Conducted archival research.

## PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

### Full-time positions

**Managing Editor** *Clearing Up* (Seattle, Wash.), 2001-02.

Edited electric utility trade weekly during the energy crisis of 2001. Covered attempts to deregulate electric utilities in Washington and Montana and the political response to shortages created by Enron’s market manipulations.

**Reporter** *Washington Journal* (Seattle, Wash.), 1998-99.

Covered law and the judiciary for legal weekly.

**State Government Reporter** KUNM-FM (Albuquerque, New Mexico), 1995-97.

Covered state government and elections for public radio station. Produced reports on the legislative sessions that were used in the evening news and during “Morning Edition.” Several stories were picked up by Pacifica, Monitor Radio, National Native News, Latino USA and National Public Radio. Associated Press awards for reporting and public service journalism.

**News Director** WORT-FM (Madison, Wis.), 1994-95.

Directed 90 volunteers and interns who produced 14 news and talk shows, including a half-hour local newscast. Hosted a weekly call-in show on politics and social issues. Trained volunteers and interns in newswriting, interview techniques and broadcast law.

**Reporter** United Press International (Madison, Wis.), 1991-93.

Covered state government, including the legislature, governor and state supreme court. Four daily deadlines, plus the race against The Associated Press on breaking stories.

Free-lance, temporary, and project work**Free-lance Reporter** *Massage Therapy Journal* (Evanston, Ill.), 2008.

Wrote story on the tax status of independent contractors working in the spa industry and changing labor standard enforcement tactics in California.

**Free-lance Reporter** *Washington Law & Politics* (Seattle, Wash.), 2000-03.

Stories included hiring trends at Puget Sound law firms and the dearth of lawyers qualified to advise high-tech start-ups. Piece on the appeals of the Exxon Valdez ruling won Society of Professional Journalists award for environmental reporting.

**Interviewer and Editor** Citizens Initiative Review campaign (Seattle, Wash.), 2000-01.

Interviewed political activists to determine what level of support they would give to a campaign to involve ordinary citizens in evaluating ballot initiatives. Also edited book on citizen juries and election reform.

**Temporary Reporter** The Associated Press (Portland, Ore.), 1999.

Wrote stories on Oregon news in print and broadcast style.

**Free-lance Reporter** KPLU (Seattle, Wash.), 1998.

Reported and produced stories for local newscast inserted in "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered."

**Temporary Reporter** *The Olympian* (Olympia, Wash.), 1997.

Assigned to cover city government and business.

**Correspondent** *The Capital Times* (Madison, Wis.), 1992-94.

Covered city government, schools, and regional stories. Part of team that revitalized the "Neighbors" section.

**Free-lance Reporter** *The Milwaukee Journal* (Milwaukee, Wis.), 1993-94.

Stories on state politics and schools.

**Book Editor** Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (Madison, Wis.), 1994.

Edited a book on the global impact of food choices.

**News Stringer** WHA-FM (Madison, Wis.), 1989-90.

Reported and produced state stories that were inserted into "Morning Edition."

**Free-lance Reporter** National Native News (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1989.

Covered trial of Billy Glaze, a serial killer of Native American women.

**Reporter** *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* (Elyria, Ohio), 1987.

Covered city government and schools.

## **BAR MEMBERSHIP**

Washington State Bar Association

## **CONFERENCES**

### **Presenter**

Panelist at American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury Project National Symposium on the American Jury System. (Washington, DC), 2010.

Panelist at The Democracy Imperative conference. Spoke on the need to maintain political reporting during the transition to new media. (Durham, New Hampshire), 2009.

Panelist on “The good, the bad, and the indecent,” addressing legal issues in broadcast media at the Northwest Community Radio Summit (Seattle, Wash.), 2006.

“Church of the Plain Word,” original short story on the source of knowledge in scientific research, presented at panel on “Faith, Knowledge and the Interface of Epistemologies” in the University of Washington Graduate Conference for Interdisciplinary Studies (Seattle, Wash.), 2006.

Lecture presentation on community radio approaches to news, including story choices, sourcing, ethical, and legal issues at the Ithaca Community Radio Workshop (Ithaca, New York), 2003.

Co-taught the strategy game Radio Chaos that simulates power struggles at a community radio station. Led large group discussion about the game and what it teaches stations about by-laws and decision rules at the Grassroots Radio Conference (Boulder, Colo.), 1996.

### **Annual Meeting Participation**

American Bar Association Media Law division, 2013, 2014.

American Constitution Society, 2008.

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2006, 2008, 2010.

International Communication Association, 2006, 2008.

National Communication Association, 2006-08, 2010-12.

PennWriters, 2016, 2017.

### **Selected Conferences and Meetings**

Awarded a scholarship to attend the 2017 Key West Literary Seminar workshop.

World International Studies Conference (Ljubljana, Slovenia), 2008.

Washington Coalition for Open Government Sunshine Week Forum (Seattle, Wash.), 2008.

National Freedom of Information Coalition Summit (Seattle, Wash.), 2007.

Conference on corporate First Amendment rights at Seattle University School of Law, 2006.  
Pew Center for Civic Journalism conference on public journalism (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1996.  
Center for Responsive Politics seminar on money in politics (Albuquerque, New Mexico), 1995.  
Investigative Reporters and Editors training on computer-assisted reporting at annual convention (New York), 1993.

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Advisor/trainer** WPSU Radio, 2017 to present.

Participate in weekly news staff meetings, conduct trainings on interview techniques, support interns and new hires, give informal suggestions on avoiding legal issues.

**Ring Leader** Selected and workshopped stories on diversity for “The State of the Story” Moth-style live storytelling show. Coached storytellers and assisted in editing and performance preparation. Co-hosted event. 2107.

**Member** University of Washington Publications Board, 2007-2010.

Served on the board that oversees publication of the *University of Washington Daily*.

**Facilitator** DART Center discussions on trauma. Met with groups of journalists from Korea, China, India and Mozambique to discuss new approaches to covering trauma. Also discussed the cumulative impact of covering trauma and ways to address PTSD in reporters. 2009-10

**Member** UW Faculty Commission on the Status of Women in Academia, 2007-08.

Served on board that examined barriers to retention of qualified women faculty.

**Reviewer** Peter Lang Publishing, 2008-09.

Evaluated mass media law book proposal.

**Commentator** KUOW-FM (Seattle, Wash.), 2008.

Provided analysis of the third McCain-Obama Presidential debate.

**Moderator** 43<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats Precinct Platform Caucus (Seattle, Wash.), 2006.

Led discussion of party members proposing media reform.

**Presenter** King County judges annual retreat (Seattle, Wash.), 2005.

Co-designed and led workshop and panel discussion on court-press relations.

**Panelist** *King County Journal* congressional candidates debate (Bellevue, Wash.), 2004.

Member of a 3-person panel that questioned candidates for Washington’s eighth district congressional seat.

**Founding Editor** *The Wallingford Word* (Seattle, Wash.), 1998-2001.

Wrote and produced print and online newspaper for north Seattle neighborhood.

**Founding Co-Editor** *The Truman Trumpet* (Albuquerque, N. M.), 1995-97.

Founded, wrote, and co-edited a small newspaper to restore a sense of community in a small neighborhood in which many people had become isolated because of their fear of violent crime. This experiment in micro-journalism was featured on the CBS Radio Network’s “Osgood Files.”

**Moderator** Albuquerque mayoral debate, 1997.

Used innovative debate format to allow a large field of candidates to address election issues in front of a live audience.

**Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council**

Represented United Press International on the council in 1993.

## WRITING AND PERFORMANCE

**Completed Works**

*Wrong Kind of Paper*, a novel about the early professional enculturation of a reporter covering police corruption, received an honorable mention in the 2017 Leapfrog Press fiction contest. (Currently seeking publisher.)

*The Blue, the Gray and the Red*. Contributed a chapter for a group-written novella dealing with women's experience of the Civil War in Perry County, Pennsylvania. Project supported by a Fowler Foundation grant. Publication expected by Sunbury Press in 2018.

*The jury and democracy: How jury deliberation promotes civic engagement and political participation*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2010 (with John Gastil, Perry Deess, and Phil Weiser). Contributions included legal research, writing the portion of the book on *Powers v. Ohio* and the antecedent cases in which the Supreme Court developed its position that jury service is a right of citizenship.

"October 31, 1981," a short story, won first place in the 2009 Write on the Sound creative nonfiction category. "Plash" won second place in the fiction category in 2010. Both were published in Write on the Sound chapbooks.

Short fiction published in the literary journal, *The Licton Springs Review* (Seattle, Wash.)

- "Noxzema" (2007)
- "The Living Nativity" (2005)
- "Entry-level position" (2004)
- "Her favorite aunt" (2003)
- "April 26, 1978" (2002)

Stories competitively selected and told at *A Guide to Visitors: Stories on Stage* (Seattle, Wash.)

- "Charming the City Council" and "Ski rescue" (2007) (also performed live on KUOW-FM and the Seattle Channel; available online at [www.seattlechannel.org](http://www.seattlechannel.org))
- "Because the first reporter they knew was Ernie Mills" (2005)
- "The Living Nativity," "Petie," and "Red bait" (2004)
- "A squirrel, a prison, and a cub reporter" (2002)

Essays

“Gary Johnson put the goober in gubernatorial” (2016). Essay about covering Gary Johnson when he was governor of New Mexico published on line by USA Today. Reached number two in the website’s trending opinion metrics.

“Outta Joint at the Joint” (2015). Essay about reporting in a New Mexico prison won a Center for American Literary Studies award for nonfiction.

“No Cabbages” (2002). Review of Washington bed and breakfast won a *Seattle Weekly* travel writing contest and was published therein.