

GENELLE I. BELMAS
Curriculum Vitae
February 16, 2016

Personal Information

Chair, News and Information Track
Associate Professor
Journalism
University of Kansas
1435 Jayhawk Boulevard
209D Stauffer-Flint Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045

Email Address: gbelmas@ku.edu
Office Phone: (785) 864-7667

Biography

Associate Professor Genelle Belmas joins the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications from California State University, Fullerton as a tenured faculty member and head of the journalism concentration in the Department of Communications. She teaches media law, media ethics, communications technology and computer-assisted reporting. Her research primarily focuses on media law. Her work has appeared in the *Yale Journal of Online Law and Technology*, the *Federal Communications Law Journal*, and *Communications Law and Policy*, among others, and has been cited by several appellate courts. She is the author of a media law textbook, *Major Principles of Media Law* (Cengage). She has also been the recipient of several research and teaching external grants. She has a B.A. in journalism and political science from the University of Wisconsin, an M.A. in political science from the University of Wisconsin, and a Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota.

Education

Ph.D., Mass Communication, 2002
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Dissertation/Thesis: "Cyberliberties and Cyberlaw: A New Approach to Online Legal Problem-Solving."
Advisor: Donald M. Gillmor

M.A., Political Science, 1988
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Supporting Areas of Emphasis: constitutional law, civil liberties, women and politics
Advisor: Joel B. Grossman

B.A., Journalism and Political Science, with Honors, 1987
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Dissertation/Thesis: "The Quest for a Testimonial Privilege: The Case for a Wisconsin Shield Law"
Advisor: MaryAnn Yodelis Smith

Experience

Academic

University of Kansas

Chair, News and Information Track, August 2015 - Present

Associate Professor, August 2014 - Present

Administrative Assignments

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Chair, News and Information Track, 2015 - Present

School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Lawrence

Chair, News-Information Track, August 2015 - Present

Professional Memberships

Women in Communication Law (WICL), (2010 - Present)

American Bar Association, (2007 - Present)

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), (1994 - Present)

Honors/Awards/Honor Societies

Individual Honor/Award

Distinguished Service Award, Journalism Association of Community Colleges. (2015)

In recognition for service to journalism faculty and students in the California community college system.

Teaching Interests (Statement)

The world is full of great stories and interesting people, and it's my job to bring them to life. I'm really lucky to be teaching in the areas I love, and I want to imbue my classes with the passion I feel for them. I also want the material I teach, which is challenging and requires a high level of critical thinking, to be something that students believe they are capable of doing if they put in the effort. Moreover, I want them to believe that the result is worth the effort. I want students to remember things from the classes in their professional lives and use that information, even if it's to realize that there is a legal situation that requires their attention or that of their company's legal staff, or to remember how to best extract important information from a reticent contact. I've been fortunate to have excellent relationships with my students, despite teaching hard courses with low average grades. Many students report that they felt they took a lot away from my courses, and enjoyed them, regardless of the grades they received. The best compliment I can receive from a student is an email or phone call – a week, a month, a year after the class – that says, “I read this and thought of you” or “In my job I'm facing this situation, and in your class we learned about this area – what do you think?” We can engage in a dialogue about current issues. It's those long-term connections that are valuable.

My primary goal as an undergraduate and graduate instructor is to be accessible. Media law, for example, has the potential to appear distant, impractical and hard to learn, and I want to overcome

students' initial reactions of ennui, fear or distaste. I can do that with technology as well as with a passion for the material; I'm currently teaching a hybrid model of the law class in which students are responsible for some of the content online. The response has been phenomenal. I believe the hybrid model, in which the class time is divided between online and in-person exposure, has the potential to increase student time with, retention of, and understanding of the material.

Teaching Key Words

Media law; media ethics; media technology, social media and gaming; computer-assisted reporting; info. gathering; news and media literacy

Research Interests (Statement)

My interest is in pursuing cutting-edge legal research. I am interested in research that has the potential to make a difference. My media law textbook is a great example; I have the potential to reach hundreds of students, many I've never met, and talk to them about First Amendment law. I take very seriously the responsibility to pick the most important current cases for inclusion in the book, and because there are so many, I consider each closely for maximum impact and relevance. I aim for similar impact in my peer-reviewed research and law reviews. I am deeply interested in topics that are somewhat off the beaten path. For example, the topic of one of my recent articles was a little-known law called the Freedom to Display the American Flag Act. I received several emails after the article was published from individuals who felt that this act, which limits the power of homeowner associations to regulate flag displays, was impinging on their rights to enjoy their properties.

Because of my textbook responsibilities, I keep up-to-date on legal developments, and many of my ideas come out of lower court cases or new laws that I find while doing that research. As an example, a recent law review was a combination of the very important *Citizens United* case from the Supreme Court and a lesser-known case on judicial recusal – a case that would probably have escaped my notice had I not been doing textbook research because it had few obvious First Amendment implications. That paper has led to several others in related areas.

I really enjoy breaking new legal ground, usually through making measured suggestions for improvements in the interpretation or application of law. I strive in my legal research to find areas of inquiry that are not heavily researched but still have potential to make a difference in the ways in which scholars, attorneys and judges evaluate the First Amendment, or to find new avenues of inquiry into heavily researched areas (such as anonymity).

My current research trajectory is involved with examining the impact of *Citizens United* on judicial elections as well as on disclosure and disclaimer laws. My colleague and I are finishing work on a grant which looks at disclosure laws post-*Citizens United*, and I am currently drafting a paper in which I'm attempting to evaluate several contested judicial elections and see how the money flowed in those elections. I'm very interested in judicial elections and judges' speech rights, as well as in anonymity issues. Anonymous speech, which is also tied into election speech and social media, is an area ripe for research, and I hope to continue along that path in the next few years.

Research Key Words

first amendment; law; ethics; technology; news; computer-assisted reporting

Research/Scholarly Work

Publications

Books

Belmas, G. I., & Overbeck, W. (2015). *Major Principles of Media Law*. Boston: Cengage.
Annually updated.

Manuscripts

Belmas, G. I. (in progress). *Social marketing and the First Amendment*.

Presentations/Lectures

Belmas, G. I. (2015, April 5). *Is imitation really the sincerest form of flattery? Tracing copyright law in appropriation art*. Presented at Popular Culture Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dissertation/Thesis Supervision

University of Kansas

Dissertation Committee Member
Matthew Tidwell January 2015 - Present

Master's Committee Chair
Sara Erlichmann, Masters Fall 2015 - Present
Devinee Fitzgerald, Masters Fall 2015 - Present
Tara Logan, Masters Fall 2015 - Present

Master's Thesis Committee Member
Ahmed Muyidi, Masters 2015 - Summer 2015

University of Kansas Courses Taught

Fall 2015

JOUR 177-21653, First Year Seminar: 45 Words:Five 1st Amend Rights
JOUR 302-22267, Infomania:Information Managmnt
JOUR 899-33855, Master's Project/Thesis

Spring 2015

JOUR 608-52720, Ethics & Professional Practice
JOUR 803-59338, Srvy Mass Media&Popular Cultr

Summary List of Courses Taught

California State University, Fullerton

Comm 233—Mass Communication in Modern Society
Comm 407—Communications Law (face-to-face and online sections)
Comm 422—Communications Technologies
Comm 438T—Investigative and Computer-Assisted Reporting

Comm 496—Teaching Internship
Comm 508—Humanistic Research of Communication (graduate)
Comm 599—Independent Study (graduate)
Proposed: Comm 331—News Literacy
Proposed: Comm 438T—Online Video Gaming: Communities and Virtual Worlds
Proposed: Comm 5xx—Free Speech Law and Policy (graduate)

California State University, Long Beach

Jour 110—Introduction to Mass Communications
Jour 305—Editorial Graphics
Jour 311—Interviewing and Info. Gathering (developed, not taught)
Jour 430—Mass Communication Law
Jour 490—Special Topics: Online Journalism (two separate courses)
Jour 494—Research Methods
Jour 499—Special Projects: Computer-Assisted Reporting
Jour 499—Special Projects: Individual Study

College of St. Benedict/St John's University

Comm 103—Mass Media and Society
Comm 313—Media, Law and Ethics
Comm 276—Journalism in Film
Comm 349—Media Criticism

Hamline University

Comm 1110—Public Speaking
Comm 3320—Mass Communication
Comm 3420—Media in Global Perspective
Comm 3980—Special Topics: Media Law

Indiana University

T101—Living in the Information Age
T205—Introduction to Media and Society
T316—Media Ethics
T530—Survey of Telecommunications Policy in the U.S. (graduate)

University of Minnesota

Jour 1001—Introduction to Mass Media (teaching assistant)
Jour 3321—Basic Media Graphics
Jour 3771—Mass Media Ethics: Moral Reasoning and Case Studies
Jour 3776—Mass Communication Law

University Service

Chairperson

CLAS/Journalism Steering Committee for New Media Conference -- Designed and implemented day-long new media conference, hosting off-campus speakers and faculty

interdisciplinary discussions. Designed and implemented day-long new media conference, hosting off-campus speakers and faculty interdisciplinary discussions. (April 2015 - September 2015)

School Service

Member

Presented libel workshop
Reviewed newspaper layout for state competition
Work with colleagues on KS student press law 25th anniversary event. (August 2014 - Present)
P&T Committee. (2014 - Present)
Dean's Five-Year Review Committee. (January 2015 - May 2015)
Attended national conference in Denver
Presented workshop
Gave advice and reviews
Recruited students and staffed KU vendor booth. (April 2015)

Journalism and Mass Communication Events

Participant

School Generations event. Participated in event. (October 20, 2015 - October 31, 2015)

Participant

William Allen White Day. (April 23, 2015 - April 24, 2015)

Professional Service

Editorial Responsibilities

Journalism and Mass Communication Monographs, Editorial Board Member. (2011 - Present)

Free Speech Yearbook, Editorial Board Member. (2009 - Present)

Other Professional Service

Scholastic Journalism Division, AEJMC, Research chair. (2014 - Present)

Write paper calls, manage reviews of submitted papers.

American Bar Association Committee 710: Intellectual Property Law, Databases & E-Commerce, Member. (2007 - Present)

Wrote summaries of IP cases published in 2008 annual reference guide.

AEJMC, Paper reviewer and discussant. (2000 - Present)

Regular reviewer for the Media Ethics Division, the Scholastic Journalism Division, the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Interest Group, and the Graduate Student Interest Group.

Service Publications

Belmas, G. I. (2015, February). Your license plate, your speech? *Civil Rights Litigation Newsletter*.

Service Presentations

Belmas, G. I. (2015, April 17). *Are boobie bracelets protected speech?* Journalism Education Association, Denver, Colorado.

Belmas, G. I. (2015, January). *Media Law Update*. Presented at Journalism Association of Community Colleges Faculty Retreat, Morro Bay. (Invited)

Other Activity

Advising

California State University, Fullerton, Advised numerous graduate students on masters theses and projects

Interviews

Various *Daily Titan* interviews (2005 - Present)