

# KELLY E. COLLINSWORTH

## EDUCATION & LICENSES

**Juris Doctor**, The Ohio State University, (May 1997).

**Bachelor of Arts in Political Science**, Georgetown College, (May 1993).

Graduated summa cum laude, Minors in Communication Arts & Business Administration

**Admitted to practice law in the following federal and state courts:**

- Commonwealth of Kentucky, since 1997
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, since 1997
- State of South Dakota, since 2019 (inactive)
- State of Illinois, since 2025

## TEACHING & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

**Southern Illinois University School of Law**, Carbondale, Illinois

*Director of Bar Support* (summer 2024 to present).

*Associate Professor of Practice* (July 2025 to present).

*Assistant Professor of Practice* (June 2022 to June 2025).

Courses: Advanced Legal Analysis & Strategies, Academic Honors Capstone, Legal Research I, Mastering Legal Education I & II, Legal Writing I & II.

**University of South Dakota School of Law**, Vermillion, South Dakota

*Interim Director of Experiential Learning* (August 2021 to December 2021, remote).

*Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs* (April 2020 to July 2021).

*Visiting Lecturer of Experiential Learning* (June 2019 to April 2020).

Courses: Externship, WORKS Practicum, Fundamental Legal Skills II, University Honors Seminar

**Morehead State University**, Morehead, Kentucky

Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies, & Legal Studies

*Director, Education Abroad*, (August 2018 – May 2019).

*Coordinator of Legal Studies program*, (January 2018 – May 2019).

*Associate Professor, Legal Studies*, (August 2014 – May 2019).

*University Prelaw Advisor*, (August 2011 – May 2019).

*Assistant Professor, Legal Studies*, (August 2008 – August 2014)

New courses developed and taught: First Year Seminar: Fact & Fiction in British Popular Culture; First Year Seminar: Learning from the Hunger Games; Law & Society Seminar; Harry Potter & the Law, Legal Studies Comparison of U.S., Netherlands, and France, Legal Studies Comparison of U.S. and Central Europe; Law & Individual Rights (online), Debtor/Creditor Relations & Bankruptcy; Legal Reasoning; Wealth & Poverty Seminar

Other courses taught: Family Law, Legal Research & Writing II, Criminal Law, Contracts, Pretrial Litigation, Trial Practice, Torts, Intro to Law & Ethics, Senior Capstone, Paralegal Internship

**Western Kentucky University**

Kentucky Institute for International Studies, *Bregenz, Austria*

*Study Abroad Faculty Member*, (summer 2017).

Courses: Comparative European Legal Systems, Popular Culture & the Law.

**Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky**

*Adjunct Instructor*, Family Law, Paralegal Studies Program, (fall 2005).

---

**RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE****Kentucky Legal Aid, Paducah, KY**

*Contract Intake Attorney, (July 2022-2024)*

*Lead Disaster Staff Attorney, (February 2022 – June 2022)*

Served as coordinator and subject-matter expert for program's disaster legal response focused on assisting individuals impacted by the December 2021 tornadoes.

Conducted intake screening for prospective clients and provide extensive legal advice and pro se assistance, primarily in the area of domestic relations.

**Bath County County Attorney's office, Owingsville, KY**

*Assistant County Attorney, (August 2015 – April 2019)*

Part-time prosecutor in district court proceedings including misdemeanor, juvenile, and child support cases. Also provided attorney representation to the Bath County Fiscal Court.

**Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, Morehead, Kentucky**

*Pro Bono Attorney, (fall 2008 – May 2019)*

Accepted referred cases from Legal Aid in the areas of family, consumer, landlord/tenant, and SSI cessation.

**Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, Morehead, Kentucky**

*Staff Attorney/ Pro Bono Coordinator, (May 1997 – August 2008)*

Represented primarily low-income clients in all stages of civil litigation. Majority of practice involved consumer defense, tenant rights, and family law matters including divorce, custody, property division, domestic violence, and juvenile court appointments.

**Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction, Columbus, Ohio**

*Law Clerk, (summer 1996)*

Conducted final review of inmate appeals of Rules Infractions Board Rulings. Investigated inmate complaints. Wrote decisions on behalf of the Director; wrote motions for summary judgment for Court of Claims actions brought by inmates against the state. Provided responses to public records requests. Maintained the office's legal research materials, and assisted with various legal research projects.

**Westlaw, Columbus, Ohio**

*Student Representative, (fall 1995 – spring 1997)*

Provided training and support for students using Westlaw computerized research. Received training through the national training center in Eagan, Minnesota.

**Northeast Kentucky Legal Services, Morehead, Kentucky**

*Law Clerk, (summer 1995)*

Conducted legal research, document drafting, client interviews, and trial assistance for several attorneys providing legal assistance to low-income individuals in eastern Kentucky. Funded by a Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) grant.

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

---

### **Articles & Book Chapters**

**“Elevating First Generation Law Students through Undergraduate Legal Programs,”** with Dianna Murphy and Lakin Gilbert, published in Fostering First Generation Success and Inclusion: A Guide for Law Schools, Carolina Academic Publishers (edited by Brittany L. Raposa) (fall 2025).

**“Leveraging Technology and Law School Pro Se Clinics to Enhance Rural Access to the Courts,”** with Marilyn Trefz, South Dakota Law Review, Volume 69, Issue 3 (2024).

**“Magical Thinking: Using Popular Culture to Teach Undergrads Legal Analysis,”** published in The Media Method: Teaching Law with Popular Culture, Carolina Academic Publishers (edited by Christine Corcos) (fall 2019).

**“I will have order”: A Potterish Examination of Authoritarian School Discipline Trends and Reactions,** published in From Here to Hogwarts: Essays on Harry Potter Fandom and Fiction, McFarland (fall, 2015).

**Pop Culture in the Classroom and Beyond: Using Harry Potter as a Portkey for Civics Education and Community Involvement,** published in Conference Proceedings from Law and Popular Culture: International Perspectives, Cambridge Scholars Publishing (summer, 2014).

Contributor to article entitled **Access to Justice from Coast to Coast** published in The Paralegal Educator, American Association for Paralegal Education, Volume 25, No. 1, pages 51-52, (spring, 2011).

**Clients in Context: Creating Client Interaction Experiences for Paralegal Students through Service Learning** published in The Paralegal Educator, American Association for Paralegal Education, Volume 24, No. 2, pages 38-39, (fall 2010).

### **International Presentations**

**Pop Culture in the Classroom and Beyond: Using Harry Potter as a Portkey for Legal Education and Community Involvement,** conference presentation at Law and Popular Culture: International Perspectives, (June 6, 2013, Tilburg, Netherlands).

### **National Presentations**

**Bridging Theory and Practice: A Reproducible Classroom Method for Strengthening Legal Reasoning Across the Curriculum,** with Anna Vick, 2026 AALS Teaching Methods Section Pedagogy Program, (January 2026, New Orleans, LA).

**Magical Thinking: Using Charts to Teach the “A” in IRAC,** with Debbie Shapiro and Laura Brooks, 2025 Annual Conference for Association of Academic Support Educators, (May 2025, Boston, Massachusetts).

**Keeping a foot in the door: Invigorating our teaching by practicing law (for a bit),** with Dustin Brown, Mireille Butler, Daniel Jaffe, Anita M. Singh, 2024 Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, (July 2024, Indianapolis, Indiana).

**Panel discussion with academics about what teaching methods and scholarship will benefit attorneys entering rural practice,** with Amanda Kool, Lisa Pruitt, Melissa

Kidder, and Marilyn Trefz, South Dakota Law Review Symposium on Rural Lawyers, (September 2023, Vermillion, SD).

**Experiential Learning Activities, Pre-Law Boot Camp**, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, (July 17-21, 2023, Zoom).

**Training the Next Generation of RURAL Lawyer Leaders – Where have we been and where are going with rural practice opportunities**, with Rachel Reeves, Denise Roy, Shawn Leisinger, and Kristi Denney, AALS Clinical Conference, (May 2021, Zoom).

**Traveling Beyond the Classroom: Integrating Travel into Your Curriculum**, with Profs. Dianna Murphy, Mary Holland, Suzanne Kissock, Rachel Bennett, and Deborah Boyle, American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) Conference, (November 2, 2018, Newport, RI).

**Building Pedagogical Bridges with Pop Culture**, with Prof. Keeley Mitchell, American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) Conference, (October 14, 2016, San Antonio, TX).

**Service Learning & Clinical Experience**, with Prof. Dianna Murphy, American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) Conference, (October 15, 2016, San Antonio, TX).

**Access to Justice Panel: Thoughts on Service Learning for Programs in Rural Areas**, with Professor Dianna Murphy, American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) Conference, (November 4, 2011, Baltimore, Maryland).

**Using the Wizarding World as a Port Key for Civics Education**, Replacing Wands to Quills: A Harry Potter Symposium for Muggle Scholars, (held at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, November 10-12, 2011).

## **Regional Presentations**

**Developing Activism through Popular Culture in a Freshman Seminar**, with Dr. Kristina Durocher, Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association, (November 2015, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

**Using Popular Culture to Enhance Student Engagement and Create Service Learning Opportunities**, Gulf-South Summit on Service Learning and Civic Engagement in Higher Education, (February 28, 2013, Louisville, Kentucky).

Poster Presentation, “**Revealing the Value of a Service-Learning Learning Community to a University**,” Gulf South Summit on Service Learning and Civic Engagement in Higher Education, with Assistant Professor of Art, Seth Green, (Feb. 27, 2013, Louisville, Kentucky).

## **State Presentations**

Panel participant, “**Just in Time: Embedded Tutors Supporting Writing Across Disciplines**,” Ky Pedagogy Conference, Eastern Kentucky University. Panel presented with Deanna Mascle, Alvin Madden-Grider, and Megan Ison, (May 2014).

Poster Presentation, “**A View from the Trenches: Why Faculty Choose Service-Learning**,” Kentucky Innovations Conference. Poster presented with Janet Ratliff. Prepared with members of the Service-Learning Learning Community. Contents of poster derived from survey conducted by the members of the Service-Learning Learning Community, (May 2012).

Presented two sessions of continuing legal education certified by the Kentucky Bar Association to attorneys, paralegals, and staff of Kentucky Legal Services Programs during their statewide conference. The sessions were entitled “**Tips for Flourishing in the Legal Office**” and “**Using PowerPoint in Litigation**.” (fall 2009).

## Local Presentations

**Family Law Panel**, University of South Dakota School of Law, Family Law and Child Advocacy Symposium. (October 2020)

**Adding an International Experience to your Course**, Morehead State University, Center for Leadership & Professional Development, (November 2018).

**Service Learning: A High Impact Practice**, with Sandra Louise Cooper, service learning coordinator, Morehead State University, Center for Leadership & Professional Development, (April 2018).

**Excellence in Teaching panel**, Morehead State University, New Faculty Institute, (August 2017).

**Using Immediate Feedback Assessment Techniques (IF-AT)**, Morehead State University Center for Leadership & Professional Development, (February 2017)

**Service-Learning: Successful Class and Research Design**, with Dr. Gina Gonzalez, *Morehead State University Service Learning Series*. Morehead State University: Center for Regional Engagement, (spring 2016).

**Making Small Service-Learning Projects Significant**, with Dr. Kris Durocher, *Morehead State University Service Learning Series*. Morehead State University: Center for Regional Engagement, (fall 2015).

**Kentucky Paralegal Association CLE event**, Presentation on bankruptcy and debt collection to paralegals from Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee. (April 8, 2015).

**"Is Hogwarts Really Magical?" The Use and Misuse of Pedagogical Methods by Hogwarts Faculty**, with Dr. Alana Scott. *Student Success Summit: Encouraging Faculty and Staff Dialogues about Student Successes*. Morehead State University: MSU Center for Leadership & Professional Development, (March 2012).

**U @18**, Presentation with Rowan County Attorney, Cecil Watkins, to Rowan County High School Seniors in conjunction with the Kentucky Bar Association (KBA) regarding legal rights and responsibilities for new graduates. This presentation qualified for Continuing Legal Education credit with the KBA.

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

---

- Member, Professional Development Committee, (fall 2025 to present).
- Member, Programming Committee, AaSE (fall 2024 to spring 2025).
- Member, Law Student Leader Summit – Working Group, Access to Justice Commission, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (summer 2024 to spring 2025).
- Member, First Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee (fall 2024 to present).
- Member, Paralegal Advisory Board for SIU Paralegal Program (fall 2024 to present).
- Member, AALS Interdisciplinary Committee (2021).
- Member of South Dakota State Bar Legal Services Committee, (fall 2020 to spring 2022).
- Member of South Dakota State Bar Family Law Committee, (spring 2021 to spring 2022).
- Member of the Access to Justice Works Committee for South Dakota, (fall 2019 to spring 2022).
- Board member, East River Legal Services, (spring 2020 to spring 2022).
- Blind Peer-Review for McFarland Publisher, (fall 2017).
- Participant in Mugglenet Academia Podcast regarding my Harry Potter and the Law class, which was released as Bonus material for the Mugglenet Academia mobile apps on iOS devices and Android devices, (September 2012).

## **HONORS, GRANTS, & AWARDS**

---

- Center for Teaching & Learning Course Design Fellowship, (summer 2019).
- *Access to Justice Award*, presented by Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, (September 2018).
- *Ambassador for Excellence in Teaching*, MSU Center for Leadership & Professional Development, (fall 2016 to May 2019).
- *Distinguished Faculty Service Award recipient* (\$2500 cash prize) (2014).
- *Faculty Engagement Fellow*, Center for Regional Engagement. (2013 – 2014).
- Student Government Association's *Flying High Faculty/Staff Award* (2014).
- *Grant recipient*, Center for Leadership and Professional Development Grant for travel to Italy to research service-learning worksites for an upcoming trip with MSU students. (2013).
- *Regional Engagement Fellowship with Amethyst Muncy*. Mentored student engagement of coordination of Pro Se Divorce Clinic. (spring 2018 to May 2019).
- *Undergraduate Research Fellowship with Matthew Heszeltine*. Mentored student research on whether a Legal Studies degree provide long-term benefits to our students attending and graduating from law school. (spring 2018 to May 2019).
- *Regional Engagement Fellowship with Katherine Griffitts*. Mentored student engagement. Student's posters "Legal Aid of the Bluegrass: Service Through Partnership" and "Wingardium leviosa": elevating the minds of a younger generation through pop culture" were presented at the Gulf South Summit held in Savannah, GA in April 2016. (2015 to 2017).
- *Undergraduate Research Fellowship with Alex Kubala*. Mentored student research on school disciplinary trends and reactions. Student Poster presented at the MSU Celebration of Student Scholarship. (2014 to 2015).
- *Regional Engagement Fellowship with Paula Roberts*. Mentored student engagement with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass' Pro Se Divorce Clinic. Student's Celebration of Student Scholarship Poster presentation received an award for one of the top posters. Student's poster also presented at the Kentucky Engagement Conference at Eastern Kentucky University. Additionally, student presented a panel discussion entitled "A Student's Perspective on volunteerism, service-learning, and internships" at the Kentucky Engagement Conference at MSU. (2012 to 2015).
- *Regional Engagement Fellowship with Brannah Hamilton*. Mentored student engagement. Student's Celebration of Student Scholarship Poster presentation received an award for one of the top posters from The Caudill College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences. (2014).
- *Regional Engagement Fellowship with Jacob Chapman*. Mentored student engagement. Student presented poster at MSU's Celebration of Student Scholarship (2012-2013).
- *Undergraduate Research Fellowship with Susan Ahmadi*. Mentored student research, which focused on determining whether MSU students are at a disadvantage when taking the Law School Admissions Test and, if so, what can be done to correct this problem. Research presented at Celebration of Student Scholarship event. (2009-2010).
- *Regional Engagement Fellowship with Rebekah Jackson*. Mentored student research on the feasibility of conducting a legal clinic with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass to assist low-income persons in Foreclosure or Bankruptcy. Student research presented at Posters-At-The-Capitol Celebration of Student Scholarship Poster. (2009- 2010).

## **SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

---

### **University Service**

- University Graduate Council, fall 2025 to present.
- Honors Thesis committee member for an Honors Student, spring 2021.
- University Assessment Committee, (fall 2020 to spring 2021).
- Faculty Senate, (fall 2017 to spring 2018).
- Student Commencement Speaker Committee, (fall 2017 to spring 2018).
- Judge, Student Celebration of Scholarship, Morehead State University, (spring 2016 and 2017).
- Volunteer, Caudill College Crew Connection, Back to School event for freshmen, (August 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018).
- Presented civics education programming for Upward Bound students, (November 2016).
- Service Committee, (spring 2015).
- SACS Mission, Governance, and Accreditation Committee, (spring 2015 to spring 2016, spring 2009).
- Helped students create a new club on campus, the Quidditch Team, and served as advisor, (spring 2013-2016).
- Carnegie Community Engagement elective designation recertification workgroup, (fall 2013 –spring 2014). Designation received.
- Member, General Education Curriculum Committee, (fall 2012 through fall 2013).
- Facilitator, Service Learning Community, (fall 2012 through spring 2013). Member of the learning community on Service Learning, (since fall 2011).
- Member of SB1 Student Success Group, (2011-2012).
- Leading Edge Leadership Program mentor, (2010-2011).
- Member of Student Life University Standing Committee, (2009-2011).
- Dreams Mentor, (2010-2012).
- Eagle Ally (fall 2009-spring 2019).

### **Departmental Service**

- Professional Development Committee, (fall 2025 to present).
- Student Advocate alternate, Honor Code Proceedings, (fall 2025 to present).
- Faculty member, “Crime Scene to Courtroom” Murder mystery camp for high school students, (summer 2025)
- Co-Chair of Law School Honors Program, (beginning fall 2023).
- Faculty Mentor, SIU Law Journal Student Note (beginning fall 2023).
- Group Facilitator, JD/MD Interdisciplinary Professionalism Day, (beginning spring 2023)
- SIU Law Day Activity leader, (September 2023, 2024).
- Faculty Representative, Law Student Leader ATJ Summit, (spring 2023).
- ADEI Committee, (2022 to 2024).
- Curriculum Self-Study Committee, (2022 to current).
- Curriculum Committee, (2019 to 2021).
- Hiring Committee, Senior Secretary, (summer 2019).
- Faculty Evaluation committee, (spring 2010 to spring 2011, spring 2015 to spring 2019).
- Faculty Evaluation Plan revision committee, (fall 2015-Spring 2016).
- Search Committee Chair for Legal Studies position, (spring 2016 and spring 2018).
- Hiring Committee for Academic Departmental Secretary for GGH & HPLRS, (fall 2008, spring 2011, summer 2014).
- Search Committee member for Department Chair for History, Philosophy, Religion & Legal

Studies, (fall 2012-spring 2013).

- University Development Officer for Department of History, Philosophy, Religion & Legal Studies, (fall 2011).
- Advisor, Alpha Lambda Pi, Paralegal Club, (fall 2009 – spring 2018).

### **Other Service as a University Representative**

- Trained Facilitator for Kentucky Juvenile Justice Jeopardy with the Children's Law Center, (2016 to 2019).
- Member, Gateway Wellness Coalition, Bath County Steering Committee, (fall 2013-fall 2017).

### **Other Community Service**

- Board member, East River Legal Services, (spring 2020 to spring 2022).
- Attorney-Coach, Bath County Middle School Mock Trial Team, (spring 2014).
- Operation Preparation Volunteer at Bath County High School providing career and undergraduate advising, (spring 2014, 2015, 2016).