

**MARY E. ADKINS**

Post Office Box 511, Melrose, Florida 32666  
Maryeadkinsauthor@gmail.com  
(352) 316-3693

**EXPERIENCE****Teaching:**

**2023 - 2024 Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, FL**  
Distinguished Visiting Professor, 2023-24 Academic Year  
Taught Florida Constitutional Law and Legal Research & Writing I & II

**2005 - 2023 University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL**  
Master Legal Skills Professor, August 2012 - present  
Senior Legal Skills Professor, August 2009 - August 2012  
Legal Skills Professor, February 2006 - August 2009  
Adjunct Legal Skills Professor, January 2005 - February 2006.

**Courses taught:**

Florida Constitutional Law  
Legal Writing - Objective  
Legal Writing - Persuasive  
Florida Civil Procedure

**Other activities:**

Chair, University of Florida Adjunct Teaching Committee, 2020-2023; supervise externs, research assistants, and teaching assistants; faculty liaison, District Appellate chapter of the American Inns of Court; faculty advisor, Florida Moot Court Team; mentor; tutor

**Publications:**

*Florida Constitutional Law: Cases in Context* (with Jon L. Mills and Timothy E. McLendon)  
(Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press 2021).

*Chesterfield Smith, America's Lawyer* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida 2020).

Rev. of *Florida Constitutional Law in a Nutshell*, by Robert M. Jarvis, 94 The Florida Bar J. 51 (2020).

"Our Evolving Constitutions," FORUM: The Magazine of Florida Humanities (Spring 2020).

“What Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission Can Teach and Learn From Those of Other States,” 71 Rutgers U. L. Rev. 1177 (Summer 2019).

Guest editor, “Florida’s 2017-2018 Constitution Revision: It’s Your Turn to Decide,” 92 The Florida Bar J. 10 - 27 (Sept. 2018).

“The Same River Twice: A Brief History Of How The 1968 Florida Constitution Came To Be And What It Has Become,” 18 Fla. Coastal L. Rev. 5 (Fall 2016).

*Making Modern Florida: How the Spirit of Reform Shaped a New State Constitution.* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida 2016).

Rev. of *Reubin O’D. Askew and the Golden Age of Florida Politics*, by Martin A. Dyckman, 85 The Florida Bar J. 60 (2011).

“Persuasive Analytical Legal Writing,” Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi (Bahçeşehir University Law Faculty) Kazancı 125 (Turk.) (2011).

“The Unblinking Eye Turns to Appellate Law: Cameras in Trial Courtrooms and Their Effect on Appellate Law,” 15 Journal of Technology Law & Policy 65 (2010).

“Seven Qualities for Beginning Appellate Attorneys” in Vol. XVI, No. 6 of *The Record*, the Journal of the Appellate Practice Section of The Florida Bar, Spring 2008.

National Business Institutes seminar materials, “Current Issues Impacting Insurance Defense Practice in Florida”, June 28, 2005, Jacksonville, Florida.

### **Works and Presentations in Progress**

Speak with FSU Class regarding their required text, *Making Modern Florida*, Oct. 3, 2024.

Researching Original Intent, Fellows’ Talk, Supreme Court of Florida, Nov. 20, 2024.

State Court Report: Constitution Essay—Florida, Brennan Center for Justice, Fall 2024.

*A Purpose-Driven Life* (working title), with retired Florida Justice James E.C. Perry and Kamilah Perry, Florida Historical Press, forthcoming fall/winter 2024-2025.

*Governor Farris Bryant: A Life at the Tipping Point* (working title), forthcoming 2026.

**Presentations and Other Professional Activities:**

**May 17, 2024: Keynote Address, “How to Move to the Wrong Side of History,” 2024 Florida Historical Society Public History Forum, Tallahassee, Florida.**

**January 27, 2024: Orange, Green, and Black: How Ray Bellamy Broke the Sports Color Barrier at the “U,” 2024 Florida Conference of Historians Annual Meeting, Melbourne, Florida.**

**November 28, 2023: Sunrise Rotary Club, “No Man is [Still] Above the Law: Chesterfield Smith v. Richard Nixon 1973, Gainesville, Florida.**

**September 22, 2023: UF Libraries Constitution Day Address: “No Man is [Still] Above the Law: Chesterfield Smith v. Richard Nixon 1973, Gainesville, Florida.**

**October 16, 2022: Presenter, “Judicial Elections and Selections: What We Need to Know,” Democratic Women’s Clubs of Florida, via Zoom.**

**August 3, 2022: Discussant, “Writing Connections Workshop: One By One: Developing Student Professional Identity through Individual Outreach,” SEALS (Southeastern Association of Law Schools) Conference, Destin, Florida.**

**June 23, 2022: Presenter, “How Florida’s Judicial System Works,” Democratic Women’s Club of the Lake Area, Melrose, Florida.**

**April 29, 2022: Presenter, “Amending the Florida Constitution,” Democratic Women’s Clubs of Florida Convention, Orlando, Florida.**

**March 19, 2022: Author-Presenter, “Chesterfield Smith, America’s Lawyer,” And The Women Gather, Deland, Florida.**

**February 27, 2022: Presenter, “A ‘Fundamental Value’? How Florida’s Constitution Has, or Has Not, Protected Public Schools since 1968,” Florida Conference of Historians Annual Meeting, St. Leo, Florida.**

**January 13, 2022: Speaker, Florida Lecture Series, “Chesterfield Smith, America’s Lawyer,” Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida.**

**Developmental Editor, *Janet Reno: An Apolitical Politician*, by Judith H. Stiehm (University Press of Florida, forthcoming 2023).**

**October 28, 2021: Presenter, “Chesterfield Smith, America’s Lawyer,” Robert Foster American Inn of Court, Fernandina Beach, Florida.**

**October 28, 2021: Presenter, "Who's in Charge of Florida's Constitution?,"** Democratic Women's Club of the Lake Area.

**Florida Constitution Consultant,** Major League Baseball, August – October 2021.

**March 26, 2021: Presenter, "Who's Really in Charge of Florida's Constitution?,"** Retired Attorneys of the Sarasota Area.

**January 27, 2021: Presenter, "What Would Chesterfield Smith Do?,"** Manatee County Bar Association.

**June 30, 2020: Presenter, What Would Chesterfield Smith Do?,"** Manatee County Kiwanis Club.

**May 4, 2020: Expert Witness, Jones v. DeSantis,** U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida.

**January 8, 2020: Lecturer, "Making Modern Florida,"** Historical Society of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, FL.

**March 13, 2019: Speaker, "Women in Florida's Constitutional History,"** Democratic Women's Club of St. John's County, St. Augustine, FL.

**March 10, 2019: Speaker, "Constitution Revision, Reapportionment, and the League of Women Voters of Florida,"** Orange County League of Women Voters, Orlando, FL.

**August 30, 2018: Moderator, "40 Years of the Constitution Revision Commission: A Panel Discussion,"** Florida's Historic Capitol, Tallahassee, FL.

**August 28, 2018: Speaker, "Constitution Revision Commission proposals,"** Alachua County League of Women Voters - Oak Hammock Branch, Gainesville, FL.

**August 10, 2018 (and August 2017 and 2016):** team-taught legal research, writing, and drafting exercise for UF Levin College of Law orientation, Gainesville, FL.

**August 9, 2018: Workshop participant, "Connecting Through Scholarship,"** Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

**August 9, 2018: Discussion group participant, "Connecting Through Diversity: Teach, Learn, Educate Yourself,"** Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

**June 28, 2018: Keynote Speaker, "Making Modern Florida,"** Florida Association of Clerks and Comptrollers 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting, West Palm Beach, FL.

**May 24, 2018: Speaker, "Women in Florida's Constitutional History,"** Democratic Women's Club of the Lake Area, Melrose, FL.

**May 19, 2018: Speaker, "2017-18 Constitution Revision Commission: A Historical Perspective,"** Florida Historical Association, Sarasota, FL.

**May 8, 2018: Speaker, "Constitution Revision Commission proposals,"** Alachua County Senior Center Civics Class, Gainesville, FL.

**February 21, 2018: Panelist, "Constitution Revision Commission issues,"** Jacksonville Bar Association, Jacksonville, FL.

**February 15, 2018: Speaker, "Florida's Constitutions,"** Florida Conference of Historians, Tallahassee, FL.

**February 1, 2018: Panelist, "Constitution Revision Commission issues,"** Sarasota Tiger Bay Club, Sarasota, FL.

**January 30, 2018: Speaker, "Historical Perspectives on Constitution Revision Commissions,"** Legislative Reunion, Tallahassee, FL.

**January 17, 2018: Speaker, "2017-18 Constitution Revision Commission issues,"** League of Women Voters of Alachua County, Oak Hammock Branch, Gainesville, FL.

**December 21, 2017: Recorded interview on "Making Modern Florida"** with Orlando Magic VP Pat Williams for radio broadcast.

**December 15, 2017: Speaker, "The Same River Twice: Lessons from Florida's Constitution Revision Commissions,"** Martin County Bar Association, Stuart, FL.

**November 30, 2017: Speaker, Constitution Revision Commission Declaration of Rights Committee,** Tallahassee, FL.

**November 28, 2017: Recorded interview on "Making Modern Florida"** for Fluent in Floridian podcast, episode 29.

**November 17, 2017: Speaker, "The Same River Twice: Lessons from Florida's Constitution Revision Commissions,"** Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Gainesville, FL.

**November 9, 2017: Speaker, Florida Lecture Series, "Making Modern Florida,"** Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL.

**October 25, 2017: Keynote speaker, “History and Current Issues: Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission”** League of Women Voters of Alachua County Fall Luncheon, Gainesville, FL.

**October 12, 2017: Panelist, “History and Current Issues: Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission,”** Florida House on Capitol Hill trustees annual meeting, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

**October 6, 2017: Speaker, Florida Historical Society, “Making Modern Florida,”** Cocoa, FL.

**October 6, 2017: Recorded interview, “Making Modern Florida,”** for Florida Frontiers television show episode, Cocoa, FL.

**October 3, 2017: Recorded podcast on “History of Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission,”** for The Florida Bar, Tallahassee, FL.

**October 3, 2017: Speaker, “History of Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission,”** Declaration of Rights Committee of the Florida Constitution Revision Commission, Tallahassee, FL.

**September 27, 2017: Panelist, “Local Government issues with Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission,”** Florida Association of Counties annual meeting, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

**September 19, 2017: Speaker, “History and Current Issues: Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission,”** George C. Young American Inn of Court, Orlando, FL.

**September 6, 2017: Panelist, “History and Current Issues: Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission,”** Florida Appellate Judges’ Educational Conference, Orlando, FL.

**August 17, 2017: Panelist, “Florida Constitution Commission: WHAT it is and WHY it should matter to you,”** Manatee Tiger Bay Club, Bradenton, FL.

**July 19, 2017: Speaker, “Going Deep: How In-depth Interviews can Bridge Cultural Differences,”** with retired Florida Supreme Court Justice James E.C. Perry (via Skype), Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) Biennial Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

**July 11, 2017: Speaker, “Florida Cases in the U. S. Supreme Court,”** University of Florida Levin College of Law Idea Incubator, Gainesville, FL.

**June 21, 2017: Speaker, “Making Modern Florida,”** Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL.

**May 30, 2017: Recorded interview for podcast for “New Books in Law”** podcast series;

interviewer, Ian Drake.

**May 21, 2017: Speaker, "The Same River Twice: History of Florida's Constitution Revision,"** Florida Historical Society Annual Meeting, at sea aboard *Carnival Sensation*.

**April 24, 2017: Panelist, "A Conversation about the Florida Constitution Revision Commission,"** University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL.

**March 29, 2017: Speaker, "Florida's Constitution Revision Commission: Historical Perspectives and Current Issues,"** Manatee County Bar Association, Bradenton, FL.

**March 22, 2017: Panelist, "Constitutional Revision Commission,"** Florida Chamber of Commerce Capitol Days, Tallahassee, FL.

**March 21, 2017: Speaker, "Florida's Constitution Revision Commission: Historical Perspectives and Current Issues,"** League of Women Voters of Alachua County - Oak Hammock Branch, Gainesville, FL.

**March 11, 2017: Panelist, "The Same River Twice: Florida's Constitution Revision Commission,"** Florida Conference of Historians Annual Meeting, Punta Gorda, FL.

**February 22, 2017: Speaker, "The Same River Twice: Florida's Constitution Revision Commission,"** LeRoy Collins Institute Board of Directors, Tallahassee, FL.

**February 10 - 12, 2017: Speaker, "Florida's Constitution Revision Commission: Historical Perspectives and Current Issues" and judged student proposals** at Bob Graham Center for Public Service Future of Florida Summit, Gainesville, FL.

**December 8, 2016: Speaker, "Florida's Constitution Revision Commission: Historical Perspectives and Current Issues"** Florida Bar Board of Governors Committee on Constitution Revision Commission, Clearwater Beach, FL.

**September 29, 2016: Speaker, "Making Modern Florida,"** Melrose Friends of the Library, Melrose, FL.

**September 15, 2016: Keynote speaker: "Making Modern Florida,"** Santa Fe College Democracy Day, Gainesville, FL.

**August 10, 2016: Speaker, "Making Modern Florida"** Tallahassee Women Lawyers, Tallahassee, FL.

**July 11, 2016: Moderator, "You Contain Multitudes: Finding and Polishing Your Unique Qualities,"** panel presentation at Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, Portland, OR.

**April 1, 2016: Speaker, “Florida’s Constitution: Historical Perspectives and Current Issues,”** Constitutional Scholars Forum, Barry University School of Law, Orlando, FL.

**March 19, 2016: Co-speaker, “Not So Fast: Crafting Assignments to Address Students’ Logical Lapses,”** with Joe Jackson, at Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, Tucson, AZ.

**March 4, 2016: Keynote speaker, “The History of the CRC,”** Florida Coastal Law Review Symposium, *20-20: A look into the 2017 Florida Constitution Revision Commission*, Jacksonville, FL.

**February 25, 2016: Speaker, “Drafting a Constitution, Drafting a Legislature,”** Faculty Workshop, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL.

**February 4, 2016: American Inns of Court team presentation panelist, “Past and Current Issues in Florida Constitution Revision,”** at First District Court of Appeal, Tallahassee, FL.

**November 12, 2015: Speaker, “Past and Current Issues in Florida Constitution Revision,”** League of Women Voters of Alachua County - Oak Hammock Branch, Gainesville, FL.

**October 8, 2015: Panelist, “The Florida Constitution at 50 Years: Looking Ahead to the 2017-2018 Revision Commission** UF Law Center for Governmental Responsibility and the Bob Graham Center for Public Service (co-sponsors), Gainesville, FL.

**August 2015 (and every August since 2006): Speaker, “How to Brief a Case,”** UF Levin College of Law orientation, Gainesville, FL.

**August 1, 2015: Panelist, “Workshop on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research: Grading and Assessment,”** Southeastern Association of Law Schools 2015 Conference, Boca Raton, Florida.

**September 12, 2014: Speaker, “Pigs, Pot, and Policy: The Creation of Florida’s Modern Constitution,”** Institute for Learning in Retirement, Oak Hammock, Gainesville, FL.

**July 31, 2014: Speaker, “Pigs, Pot, and Policy: The Creation of Florida’s Modern Constitution,”** as Patrick Riordan Memorial Fellow at University of South Florida Libraries, Tampa, FL.

**June 30, 2014: Speaker, “Computer to Professor: Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better?,”** Legal Writing Institute Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.



**April 25, 2014: Facilitator, ALWD Innovative Teaching Workshop,** Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, FL.

**December 7, 2012: Panelist, "Teaching Mediation with Legal Writing,"** Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

**October 2012: Speaker, "Legal Analysis,"** an academic support program, to first-year law students at the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL.

**December 2, 2011: Panelist, "Effective Use of Teaching Assistants,"** Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, University of Miami College of Law, Coral Gables, FL.

**June 6 - 9, 2011: Speaker, "Persuasive Analytical Legal Writing,"** Twenty-First Century Global Legal Skills Conference, Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul, Turkey.

**May - June, 2011:** Assistant Editor, Mark Yates, *The Carnegie Effect: Elevating Practical Training over Liberal Education in Curricular Reform*, Volume 17, Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute (2011).

**Fall 2010 - Spring 2012:** Assistant Editor, Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute.

**Spring 2008 - Spring 2012:** Externship faculty advisor for student externs.

**2009, 2010: Brief Judge,** National Child Welfare & Adoption Law Moot Court Competition.

**Fall 2012, Fall 2010 - Spring 2011, Fall 2008 - Spring 2009: Mentor,** University of Florida Women's Leadership Committee Women's Mentoring Program.

**Spring 2008 - present:** Assist with preparing Environmental Moot Court students for competitions.

**December 2007:** Briefed and argued **Price v. State**, SC06-2045, before Supreme Court of Florida.

**January 2007, February 2013; May 2015: University of Warsaw, Center for American Law Studies, Warsaw, Poland.** Developed and taught compressed Legal Writing course to class of 100 law students.

**September 2004: Speaker, "Wills and Basic Estate Planning,"** Melrose Library Association, Melrose, FL.

**Awards:**

2021 Outstanding Service Award, Association of Legal Writing Directors

2020 Rembert Patrick Award for Best Scholarly Work on a Topic of Florida History, for *Chesterfield Smith, America's Lawyer* (University Press of Florida 2020).

2015 University of Florida Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Award (Fall).

2015 Samuel Proctor Oral History Program travel award (Summer).

2014 Samuel Proctor Oral History Program travel award (Summer).

2014 USF Libraries Riordan Memorial Fellowship in Florida Studies.

2008 Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) Scholarship.

2008 University of Florida Student Affairs Committee Award.

**Professional Affiliations and Service:**

**2023 – present:** Florida Historical Society, Member, Board of Directors.

**2013 - present:** Florida Supreme Court Historical Society; Executive Committee Member (2015-present), Second Vice-President (2019), Secretary (2017-18), Treasurer (2015-16), Chair, Oral History Committee (2014-2021).

**2019 - 2023:** First District Appellate American Inn of Court; Executive Committee Member; Master, Government.

**2018 - 2021:** AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research; Immediate Past Chair (2021), Chair (2020), Chair-Elect (2019), Secretary (2018).

**2016 - 2022:** The Association of Legal Writing Directors; Member, Board of Directors; Biennial Conference Site Committee, 2018-19, ABA liaison, 2018-2022, ALWD Guide Task Force, 2019-2020.

**2015 - 2018:** Member, Eighth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee; chair, August 2017 – January 2018, vice-chair, February – July 2017.

**2015 - 2018:** ALWD Diversity Initiatives Committee.

**2014 - 2016:** Legal Writing Institute Global Legal Skills Committee.

**2013 - 2015:** ALWD Survey Committee; ALWD Innovative Teaching Committee.

**2010 –2012:** Legal Writing Institute Professional Development Committee.

#### **Community Affiliations and Service:**

**2012 - present:** Member, League of Women Voters of Florida.

**2010 - 2012:** Melrose Community Center; Steering and Foundational Committee.

**1999 - present:** Historic Melrose Inc.; 1999 - present, President, 2007 - 2009, Vice-President, 2006 - 2007 and 2009 - 2010, executive board member, 2005.

**1992 - present:** Melrose Bay Property Owners Association; Vice President, 2022 – present, President, 2003 – 2004.

#### **Previous Professional Positions:**

**Cameron, Hodges, Coleman, LaPointe, & Wright, P.A., Ocala and Jacksonville, FL. Associate Attorney.** 2001– 2004.

Successfully managed and litigated large caseload in busy civil defense practice.

Wrote effective pleadings, motions, memoranda of law, and briefs; tried and mediated cases.

Worked in Ocala office until, in March 2004, managed Jacksonville satellite office.

**Sole practitioner, Melrose, FL.** 1999 –2001.

General civil law practice; represented both plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury, contract litigation, land use, real estate, insurance, and governmental cases. Wrote and argued motions and briefs; conducted discovery, trials and mediations.

**Jones, Carter & Drylie, P.A., Gainesville, FL. Associate Attorney.** 1994—1998. Civil practice with emphasis in diverse insurance defense litigation, small business representation, and land use law. Wrote and argued motions and briefs; conducted discovery, trials and mediations.

**Holland & Knight, Jacksonville, FL. Associate Attorney.** 1992—1994. Civil litigation practice in firm's Jacksonville office with emphasis on real-estate-related litigation. Participated in firm committees; wrote and argued motions and briefs; conducted discovery, trials and mediations.

**University of Miami School of Music, Miami, FL.**

Director of Development, 1987-1988. Worked with alumni and friends of the School to raise funds for the School.

**Muscular Dystrophy Association, Fort Myers, FL.**

District Director, 1985-1986; Program Coordinator, 1982-85.

Directed staff and volunteers for all programs, including successful fund-raising programs, and coordinated two free clinics, in ten-county area.

**Education:** Ph.D. student, History, University of Florida, 2024 –

M.A, History, University of Florida, 2017

J.D., University of Florida College of Law, 1991

B.S.J., University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications, 1979

**Honors:** Florida Law Review: Senior Executive Editor, 1991; Selection Committee Chair, Fall 1991.

**Professional and Community Memberships:**

AALS, Section of Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research

Association of Legal Writing Directors, board member

Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association

First District Appellate American Inn of Court, faculty liaison, September 2014 – present

Florida Historical Society

Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

League of Women Voters of Florida

Legal Writing Institute

The Florida Bar, 1992-present (inactive status since 2014).