

DEREK H. KIERNAN-JOHNSON

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EDUCATION	University of Michigan Law School <i>Juris Doctor</i>	1997–2000
	Oxford University <i>Graduate work, English Cathedral Architecture, Wadham College</i>	1997
	Princeton University <i>Ars Baccalaureate, Religion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Junior Paper: <i>Experiencing Toxcatl</i> (analyzed Aztec sacrificial ritual from its victim's perspective)• Senior Thesis: <i>Durch Sühn und Buß der Gnade Heil: Suffering and Salvation in the Operas of Ricard Wagner</i>	1993–1997
EMPLOYMENT	University of Colorado Law School <i>Teaching Professor of Law</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach legal writing, analysis, persuasion, and decisionmaking• Research, present, and publish on topics in legal communication and rhetoric• Perform service for the law school, university, and legal community	2007–present
	Caplan and Earnest LLC <i>Attorney at Law</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counseled school boards, school administrators, and teachers• Drafted policies, regulations, and contracts• Crafted pleadings; argued before administrative, trial, and appellate courts• Led client trainings, seminars, and roundtables• Managed and edited firm's quarterly <i>Colorado School Law Reporter</i>• Oversaw firm's law-clerk program	2001–2007
	Supreme Court of Colorado <i>Law Clerk, Hon. Justice Michael L. Bender</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wrote memoranda recommending action on petitions for certiorari• Drafted and edited judicial opinions	2000–2001

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS	Staying True to Narrative Fidelity <i>23 Legal Comm. & Rhetoric (refereed journal; forthcoming 2026)</i>	2026
	Purple Zones and Traffic Cones: Navigating Bluebook & Redbook Overlaps <i>5 Proceedings 17 (refereed journal)</i>	2024
	A Grammar of Legal Thought <i>18 Legal Comm. & Rhetoric 169 (book review, refereed journal)</i>	2021
	The Potemkin Temptation, or, The Intoxicating Effect of Rhetoric and Narrativity on American Craft Whiskey <i>15 Legal Comm. & Rhetoric 1 (lead article, refereed journal)</i>	2018
	A Shift to Narrativity <i>9 Legal Comm. & Rhetoric 81 (refereed journal)</i>	2012
	Losing Twice: Harms of Indifference in the Supreme Court <i>40 Colo. Law. 114 (book review)</i>	2011
	Telling Through Type: Typography and Narrative in Legal Briefs <i>7 J. ALWD 87 (refereed journal)</i>	2010

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS	Visual Storytelling & Constitutive Rhetoric in French Wine Labeling <i>Ninth Applied Legal Storytelling Conference</i>	London, UK 2023
	The Purposes of Style in Judicial Opinions <i>Colorado Judicial Conference</i>	Vail, CO 2022
	Stock Structures and Legislative Drafting <i>Eighth Applied Legal Storytelling Conference</i>	(Online/remote) 2021
	The Rhetoric of Writing Negative Credibility Determinations <i>Seventh Applied Legal Storytelling Conference</i>	Boulder, CO 2019
	Framing Asides in Predictive Writing <i>Fourteenth Annual Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference</i>	Las Vegas, NV 2014
	The Seductiveness of Narrative Momentum <i>Fourth Applied Legal Storytelling Conference</i>	London, UK 2013
	Legal Writing's Role in Document-Design Policy-Making <i>Fourteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute</i> • Panelist with Richard Neumann, Ruth Anne Robbins, and Matthew Butterick	Palm Desert, CA 2012
	Refining Our Vocabulary: "Narrative" and "Story(telling)" <i>Third Applied Legal Storytelling Conference</i> • Panelist with Brian Foley & Michael Higdon	Denver, CO 2011

SELECTED SERVICE	Chair, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Scholarship Group <i>Universities of Colorado, Denver, and Wyoming</i>	2024–present (member since 2011)
	Chair, Teaching Faculty Reappointment & Promotions Committee <i>University of Colorado Law School</i>	2024–present
	Chair, Adjunct Faculty Committee <i>University of Colorado Law School</i>	2018–2024
	Director, Legal Writing Program <i>University of Colorado Law School</i>	2013–2014
	Chair, Technology Committee <i>University of Colorado Law School</i>	2011–2013, 2015
	Chair, Model Visual Design Committee <i>Legal Writing Institute</i>	2012–2014
	Chair, IT Director Search Committee <i>University of Colorado Law School</i>	2011–2012
	Co-Chair, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference <i>University of Colorado Law School</i>	2012–2013
	Invited Peer Reviewer, Legal Comm. & Rhetoric	2011–present
	Invited Consultant, Typography & Graphic Design <i>(Various entities & organizations)</i>	2009–present
	Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served as member of orchestra’s Executive Board of Directors • Chaired orchestra’s Artistic Committee, overseeing programming, venue, performance, and artistic collaborations • Wrote program notes for concerts 	2007–2011

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

- *English football*. Support Chelsea men & women and English national teams
- *Music*. Sing tenor in The Choral Forge and Foundry ensembles. Enjoy chamber, orchestral, and choral music.
- *Beverages*. Distillates, esp. aged spirits; wine, esp. Burgundian & N. Italian
- *Cooking*, esp. French & Italian
- *Photography*, esp. landscape & nature
- *Games of skill & chance*, such as chess, backgammon, and poker
- *Tracking & identification* of birds, cultural trends, and mammals