

HAROLD E.J. HECK

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Georgia Bar # 596632

EXPERIENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Academic Success & Bar Exam Specialist

Mercer University, School of Law, 1021 Georgia Ave, Macon, GA 75201
2022 – Present

Teach three-credit bar studies course, one-credit 1L skills course, and multiple workshops for first- and third-year students. Provide individual advising, coaching, instruction, and referrals to all students, and bar takers. Provide post-graduate bar support and programming. Work with alumni to provide bar programming and accountability mentors. Compile, track, and analyze bar examination results to provide regular reports to faculty and law school stakeholders. Report information regarding bar passage as required by the ABA and other accrediting bodies. Provide general advising and support to students on character and fitness concerns and other strategic bar application and licensing considerations.

- Teaching doctrinal course – Georgia Civil Procedure.
- Work in progress: *Examining the roles of dogs in schools and the workplace. Should emotional support animals be treated the same as service dogs? Are emotional support animals a reasonable accommodation? How can service dogs, emotional support animals, and therapy dogs be used to improve schools and the workplace?*
- Developed a strong working relationship with Georgia Board of Bar Examiners.
- Implemented a program that brings therapy dogs to the bar exam.

Professor of Practice (Academic Success & Bar Readiness)

UNT Dallas, College of Law, 106 S Harwood St, Dallas, TX 75201
2020 – 2022

Taught three credit graded bar preparation courses each semester. Provided counseling and mentorship to students and graduates regarding the bar exam. Counseled and worked with students in individual and small group sessions, coordinated bar topic workshops, and provided intensive bar preparation support for graduates and retakers. Drafted and taught mandatory 1L skills courses focusing on legal analysis and exam writing, both to all first semester 1Ls. Selected, trained, and supervised ASP teaching assistants.

- Revived and updated defunct ASP teaching assistant program.
- Successfully employed HyFlex teaching model during the pandemic.
- Service – Admissions committee, Scholarship committee.

Director of Law Academic Success

University of Idaho, College of Law, 514 W. Jefferson St, Boise, ID 83720
2017 – 2020

Developed, implemented, and managed a comprehensive Academic Support program by: providing individualized, confidential academic counseling and coaching to all law students; planning and teaching required for-credit skills courses to all 1Ls first semester and select 1Ls second semester; coordinating with faculty, staff, and attorney colleagues to provide specialized advising sessions; and analyzing the needs, interests, and limitations of students to conduct appropriate individual advising, including at risk and probation advising. Developed learning outcomes, exercises, and assessment tools designed to help students develop into self-regulated learners. Developed, organized, administered, and taught an orientation course. Provided individual and group support for bar exam takers.

- Designed and implemented program for Boise location's inaugural 1L class.
- Lead the process for faculty approval of first ever academic skills courses.
- Started 1L professor panel to develop early interventions for struggling 1Ls.
- Instrumental in the successful movement to convert ASP to clinical faculty positions.
- Service – Admissions committee, Various non-tenure track hiring committees.

Academic Success Lecturer (Faculty)

Charlotte School of Law, 201 S. College St, Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28244
2016 – 2017

Taught courses designed to help students hone their legal analysis and writing skills. Taught academic workshops. Provided individual counseling and advising to students on academic issues, academic achievement, and probation. Administered periodic practice exam sessions. Taught for-credit Barbri bar review course. Coached bar students individually and in study groups.

Associate Attorney

Grist Law Firm, LLC, 915 Hill Park, #102, Macon, GA 31201
2014 – 2016 (as Attorney)
2011 – 2014 (as Law Clerk)

Managed all aspects of civil litigation from case intake through final disposition at trial including initial client interviews, researching claims, developing case strategy, and advising clients on likely outcomes (Social Security, Bankruptcy, and Veteran Benefits). Drafted pleadings, motions, and briefs. Delivered written and oral advocacy in state, federal, and administrative courts.

- Spearheaded a fact intensive, highly complex case with multiple actors, analyzing multiple scenarios and probabilities of each outcome. Resulted in settlement in excess of \$300,000.

EDUCATION

(First Generation College/Graduate/Law)

Juris Doctor, Mercer University, Macon, GA

- Certificate in Advanced Legal Writing, Research and Drafting

Master of Business Administration, Boise State University, Boise, ID

PRESENTATIONS / MEDIA APPEARANCES

“The Power of Dogs: Leveraging Therapy Dogs to Reduce Stress and Build Community,”
AASE (Association of Academic Support Educators) annual conference. May 2024.

“Therapy dog provides stress relief, joy to Mercer Law students and beyond.”
Mercer Lawyer magazine. Fall 2023 edition. <https://den.mercer.edu/therapy-dog-provides-stress-relief-joy-to-mercero-law-students-and-beyond/>

“Supreme Court of Georgia eases requirements for military spouses to practice law in the state.” 41NBC/WMG. December 2023. <https://www.41nbc.com/supreme-court-of-georgia-eases-requirements-for-military-spouses-to-practice-law-in-the-state/>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS / VOLUNTEER SERVICE

AASE (Association of Academic Support Educators)

- Scholarship Committee, 2023-2024

Alliance of Therapy Dogs

- Certified Therapy Dog Team, 2022 - Present
- 100+ visits to schools, assisted living centers, hospice centers, hospitals, and prisons.

American Inns of Court

- Vice President, 2019-2020
- Secretary/Treasurer, 2018-2019

MILITARY SERVICE

Nuclear Reactor Operator / Electronics Technician

U.S. Navy - Honorably Discharged