

# DAVID H. SPRATT

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **LEGAL RHETORIC PROGRAM, Washington College of Law**

August 2006-

*Academic Coordinator and Professor of Legal Writing*

Instruct first year law students in legal writing, analysis, editing, research, citation, and oral argument skills; interview, coordinate, and hire 40+ Dean's Fellows; prepare Dean's Fellow instructional materials and teaching notes; conduct periodic citation and writing strategy workshops; teach upper-level students legal drafting and family law (summer session course).

### **SCHWARTZ & SPRATT, PLC, Fairfax, Virginia**

April 2001-August 2006

*Founder and Managing Partner*

Represented clients in domestic relations and civil matters. Responsibilities included: client interviews; extensive oral and written client and attorney contact; researching legal issues; preparing, analyzing, and responding to discovery requests and motions; drafting property settlement agreements, motions, court orders, and other pleadings; negotiation and settlement of client matters; conducting Commissioner's Hearings and contested and uncontested depositions; arguing before numerous Juvenile, District, and Circuit Courts within the Commonwealth of Virginia; preparation of simple wills; mediation; representation of children as a guardian *ad litem*. Managing Partner responsibilities included: creation and management of client files and records; billing; maintenance of general firm and client trust accounts; daily operation of firm; financial reports and administration.

### **LEGAL ANALYSIS AND WRITING PROGRAM, Concord University School of Law**

January 2006-December 2006

*Professor*

Instructed third year distance learning law students in legal writing, analysis, editing, and oral argument skills.

### **LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING PROGRAM, George Washington University Law School**

June 2004-May 2006

*Adjunct Professor of Legal Research and Writing/Introduction to Advocacy*

Instructed first year law students in legal writing, analysis, editing, and oral argument skills.

### **THE LEWIS LAW FIRM, Washington, D.C.**

April 1999-April 2001

*Associate*

Represented clients in domestic relations and civil matters. Responsibilities included: client interviews; extensive oral and written client and attorney contact; researching legal issues; preparing, analyzing, and responding to discovery requests and motions; drafting property settlement agreements, motions, court orders, and other pleadings; negotiation and settlement of client matters; conducting contested and uncontested depositions; appearing before numerous Juvenile, District, and Circuit Courts within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### **LEGAL METHODS PROGRAM, Washington College of Law**

January 1995-May 2000

*Adjunct Professor*

Instructed first year law students in legal writing, analysis, editing, and oral argument skills.

### **PALMIERI & PALMIERI, P.C., Vienna, Virginia**

January 1999-April 1999

*Associate*

Represented homeowners and condominium associations in civil, bankruptcy, foreclosure, and collection matters. Advised Boards of Directors on issues relating to community, including, but not limited to, collections, liens, parking regulations, trash removal, security, satellite dishes, etc. Drafted amendments to Declarations and Bylaws. Prepared opinion letters in response to Board of Directors' inquiries. Wrote article on parking issues in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia for firm newsletter. Appeared in and argued before numerous District and Circuit Courts within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**BETTY A. THOMPSON, LTD.**, Arlington, Virginia

*Senior Associate*

*Associate*

Represented clients in domestic relations matters. Coordinated and managed VBA Coalition Committee on Family Law Legislation.

September 1997-November 1998

October 1996-September 1997

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**, Washington, D.C.

October 1994-October 1996

*Office of Administrative Law Judges--Attorney Advisor*

Drafted and proposed initial decisions, orders, and responses to motions and prepared memoranda of law for four administrative law judges under more than 35 different laws. Conducted detailed analysis of factual and legal issues presented in assigned cases. Researched and analyzed pertinent statutes, case law, regulations, executive orders, and legislative history.

## **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLINIC, Washington College of Law**

August 1993-May 1994

*Student Intern*

During the prosecution semester, represented the Commonwealth in trying misdemeanor cases, negotiating plea agreements, interviewing witnesses, and handling the day's docket. During the defense semester, responsible for all aspects of a client's case, including the initial interview, client counseling, legal research, development of case theory, trial, and post-trial motions.

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY**, Fairfax, Virginia

Summer 1993

*Law Clerk, General Law Section*

Researched and drafted memoranda concerning tax assessment, freedom of expression, and various aspects of civil procedure. Reviewed and analyzed discovery responses and other materials.

## **EDUCATION**

**WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW, The American University**, Washington D.C.

Member, Virginia State Bar, District of Columbia Bar

J.D., *summa cum laude*, May 1994, 3.61/4.0 GPA -- Top 5%

Member, Washington College of Law Honor Society

Recipient, Don Monroe Casto Award in Constitutional Law

At-Large Representative, Student Bar Association

Member, Student-Faculty Curriculum Committee. Student Bar Association

Chair, Student Activities Committee, Student Bar Association

Student Chair, Student-Faculty Admissions Committee, Student Bar Association

**THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY**, Williamsburg, Virginia

B.A., Government, Psychology, May 1991, 3.43/4.0 GPA

Member, Psychology and Government Honor Societies

Volunteer, Eastern State Mental Hospital, adolescent and geriatric wards

Volunteer, York County Head Start Program

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Member, Virginia Bar Association

Immediate Past and Founding Chair, Northern Virginia Regional Advisory Committee

Member, Domestic Relations Section and Section Council

Member, Collaborative Family Law Society

Appointed Member, Steering Committee for Custody and Visitation Initiative

Appointed Member, 2004 Committee on Nominations

Member, Legal Writing Institute

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Co-Chair of Admissions, Celebrate Fairfax, Fall for the Arts Festival, 2003  
Leadership Team, Celebrate Fairfax, 2002-present  
Volunteer, Celebrate Fairfax, 1990-present  
Volunteer Family of the Year, Celebrate Fairfax, 2006

## **SELECTED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS**

Northern Virginia Legal Secretaries Association, "Introduction to Legal Research, Writing and Citation," March 2006.  
Freddie Mac, "Introduction to Legal Research, Writing and Citation," March 2006.  
Virginia CLE, "The Wisdom of Solomon Revisited: Dividing Time With the Babies," August 2006 (Moderator).  
Co-Presenter, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, "The Challenging Pedagogy of the First Assignment: What Do Students Need to Learn and How Can We Do It?" March 9-10, 2007.

## **RECENT MEDIA APPEARANCES**

Interviewed by the Associated Press about the Virginia Court of Appeals case *Stroud v. Stroud*, and its implications for same-sex couples in Virginia, February 27, 2007.

## **PUBLICATION**

"Writing Like A Contemporary (And Effective) Lawyer: The Joys and Pitfalls of Legal Writing," Virginia Bar Association News Journal (December 2005/January 2006).