THE WLRC’S MISSION is to help students adjust to and meet law school’s academic challenges. The center’s nine professors pursue that mission primarily through the nationally recognized Research, Reasoning, Writing, and Advocacy (RRWA) Program—ranked 12th by U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Graduate Schools” 2019 edition. During two intensive RRWA semesters, first-year students work in small class sections to develop key skills:

1. **Legal Literacy**: ability both to read and write as lawyers. We focus especially on helping students develop a professional voice as lawyers and practice using that voice powerfully.

2. **Legal Research**: ability to seek law-related information strategically and sort, analyze, and organize it in ways that empower communication using the law.

3. **Professionalism**: the habits of respectful engagement and communication that prepare lawyers well to serve clients, communities, fellow lawyers, and judges.

The WLRC also pursues its mission through the Academic Excellence Program (AEP). The AEP aims to help all students maximize their potential to learn and succeed. Students may participate in the pre-orientation Legal Education Advancement Program (LEAP) and enrichment groups focused on 1L casebook classes. The AEP also offers academic counseling, a lending library of study supplements in room 5062, and support during the bar-preparation season.

Donn Young

“The WLRC’s programs don’t just teach students how to be successful lawyers; they teach students how to lead fulfilling lives.”

—Kenley Eaglestone, Class of 2014

A related set of courses trains a select group of outstanding third-year students called Honors Writing Scholars. Those 3Ls then assist WLRC faculty as instructional mentors for RRWA students.
KEVIN BENNARDO, Clinical Associate Professor. Bennardo’s professional experience includes working for federal judges at both the trial and appellate levels, practicing intellectual property law at a multinational law firm, and serving as a Non-Resident Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau. His published works have been cited by numerous case books, legal treatises, and judicial opinions.

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ALEXA CHEW, Clinical Associate Professor and WLRC Assessment Coordinator. A graduate of Princeton and Duke, Chew came to UNC after working as an associate at a large firm, teaching at Campbell University, and serving as a longtime judicial clerk at the Court of Appeals of North Carolina. She is the co-author of *The Complete Legal Writer* (2016).

achew@email.unc.edu, Room 4091

LUKE EVERETT, Clinical Associate Professor. A former high-school teacher with a master’s degree in teaching, Everett also has gleaned wisdom and experience from running a prestigious century-old law firm in Durham, N.C. In 2015 he won the case of Grady v. North Carolina in the Supreme Court of the United States. He also co-teaches Small Firm Civil Practice.

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RACHEL GURVICH, Clinical Assistant Professor. A graduate of UNC and Harvard, Gurvich clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and practiced at a major international law firm, focusing on intellectual property and appellate litigation. She also served as a Special Assistant District Attorney and taught as an adjunct at Boston College Law School.

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PETER NEMEROVSKI, Clinical Associate Professor. Nemerovski joined the WLRC in 2017 after graduating from the University of Michigan Law School in 2002, clerking for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, practicing law at large firms in Los Angeles and Miami, and teaching for seven years at the University of Miami School of Law.

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O.J. SALINAS, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Academic Excellence. A native of South Texas, Salinas previously practiced civil litigation, earned a master’s in counseling, and taught law-related courses to undergraduates and master’s students. He teaches Applied Legal Concepts and has taught UNC’s Negotiation course. He is the author of *A Short and Happy Guide to Effective Client Interviewing and Counseling* (2016).

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ELIZABETH SHEROWSKI, Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor. Sherowski was an assistant prosecuting attorney and then in private practice before teaching at Ohio State. There she taught legal writing and advocacy while also directing OSU’s nationally ranked moot court program. She is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and The Ohio State University.

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CRAIG SMITH, Clinical Professor and Assistant Dean for the WLRC. Smith clerked at a U.S. District Court, practiced with a law firm, earned an LL.M. in Germany, taught law at Vanderbilt, Penn State, and German universities, and served as president of the Association of Legal Writing Directors. He also teaches the Honors Writing Scholars.

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SARA WARF, Clinical Associate Professor. With bachelor and law degrees from UNC, plus a background in academic publishing, Warf has clerked for two judges at the Court of Appeals of North Carolina, practiced as an appellate attorney in a major Raleigh firm, and taught for six years at Campbell Law School. She also co-chairs the law school’s Clerkship Committee and teaches Judicial Clerkship Writing.

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PATTY FREY, WLRC Business Services Coordinator. Since 2000, Frey has served as the WLRC’s primary welcoming presence, assistant, and wellness consultant. She is a certified life coach and yoga instructor who shares with the law school community instruction in gentle yoga and stress management.

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