MICHAEL A. BLASIE

EXPERIENCE

2025-Present	**Associate Professor of Law** Seattle University School of Law
2024-2025	**Dean and Professor of Law** KIMEP University School of Law, Kazakhstan (on leave from Seattle Law)
2022-2024	**Assistant Professor of Law** Seattle University School of Law
2020-2022	**Assistant Professor of Law** Penn State Dickinson Law School
2020-Present	**Instructor** National Judicial College Design and teach courses for over 680 U.S. and international judges
2018-2021	**Staff Counsel** Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP, Denver Litigated insurance, contract, professional malpractice, class action, products liability, and mass tort cases
2016-2018	**Law Clerk** Judge David Richman, Colorado Court of Appeals
2010-2015	**Associate Attorney, General Litigation Group** Cooley LLP, New York City Litigated civil, criminal, and administrative law cases including defamation case against best-selling author, property suit over urban university construction project, criminal appeal alleging unlawful seizure and inadmissible character evidence, government contract fraud and kickback investigation, and domain name trademark disputes

Awards

2024-Present	**Executive Board Member** Bahçeşehir Global University Professional Advanced Legal Studies (Turkey)
2024	**Fulbright Specialist Award** U.S. Department of State, Bahçeşehir University International (Turkey) Taught Legal English course
2024	**Emerging Scholar Award** Legal Writing Institute
2021	**LexisNexis Scholarship Grant**

Publications

Law Journals

Work-in-Progress	Information Poverty and the Right to Understand

Forthcoming 2026
: The Language of Legitimacy: Judicial Opinion Writing and Public Trust in Courts
Erasmus Law Review (Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands, special edition by invitation)

2025
: The Duty to Make Contracts Understandable
2024 Columbia Bus. L. Rev. 463
- SSRN Top 10 Downloads for multiple categories
- ContractsProfBlog Top 10 Downloads

2023
: Regulating Plain Language
2023 Wisconsin Law Review 687
- SSRN Top 10 Downloads for multiple categories

2022
: The Rise of Plain Language Laws
76 University of Miami Law Review 447
- ContractsProfBlog Top 10 Downloads
- SSRN Top 10 Downloads for multiple categories
- SSRN top 10% of authors with new downloads in last year
- Profiled in David Hoffman, *What If We'd Already Revolutionized Contract Law But No One Knew it?,* JOTWELL

2017
: The Uncertain Foundation of Work Product
67 DePaul Law Review 35

2011
: A Separation of Powers Defense of Federal Rulemaking Power (student note)
66 N.Y.U. Annual Survey American Law 593

Books & Treatises

Forthcoming 2026
: Plain Language Legislation (chapter)
Concise Encyclopedia on Legal Design (Elgar)

2025
: Salvation or Threat: How Artificial Intelligence Affects Plain Language Legal Documents (chapter)
Law in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (Yetkin Yayinlary, Turkey)

2023-Present
: Plain Language Laws in the United States (Wolters Kluwer) (book)
Annual updates ongoing

2018-2019
: Appellate Briefs (chapter)
Colorado Appellate Law and Practice Treatise (Thomson Reuters)

Publications (continued)

Essays & Blogs in American Publications

2024   Who Cares if No One Understands Contracts? (blog)
ContractsProf Blog

2024   The Unkillable Learning Styles Myth (essay)
28 LEGAL WRITING 401
• SSRN Top 10 Downloads for multiple categories

2023   Which Contract is Better? (blog)
ContractsProf Blog

2023   Plain Language: Lawmakers' Preferred Solution (essay)
Attorney General Journal

2023   496 U.S. Laws Require Plain Language Contracts (blog)
Contract Nerds Blog

Specialty International Publications

2025   Certifying plain language training (co-author)
90 The Clarity Journal 21

2024   Plain language surges among governments
89 The Clarity Journal 24

2023   Coordinating international plain language law research
5 PLAIN 2

2023   Converting plain language from advice to law
87 The Clarity Journal 40

Press

2025   Wisconsin Proposal to Require Simple Explanations of Ballot Questions Needs Work, Critics Say (interview)
Votebeat Wisconsin

2025   Connelly Law Offices v. Cowbell Cyber (W.D.Wa. 2025) (expert witness)

2024   Plain language laws in the United States (Norway)
Språkrådet/Language Council of Norway

2024   A Primer on Plain Language Laws (interview)
WordRake

2023   Expert from Seattle University (USA) highlights Project 'Simplifying is Cool'
General Inspectorate of Justice of Maranhão (Brazil)

2023   An Interview with Professor Michael Blasie (interview)
WordRake

Research

2024; 2025 Secondary Proposer, European Legal Design Action (not funded in 2024; reapplying 2025)
157 proposers from 41 countries create legal design research network on regulatory complexity through European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

Selected US Presentations

2024 Language of Writing & Law
Syracuse University

Annual Forum on Plain English
University of Houston

2023 The Duty to Make Contracts Understandable
Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Conference, BYU Law

Plain Language
Harding Loevner LP

Plain Language & The Judiciary
National Center for State Courts

A Common Law Duty to Make Contracts Understandable
International Conference on Contracts

A Common Law Duty to Make Contracts Understandable
Faculty Exchange, University of Oklahoma Law School

2022 A Common Law Duty to Make Contracts Understandable
Midwest Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting

The Doctrine of Plain Language
Western Regional Legal Writing Conference

Plain Language in the Courts
National Association for Court Management Annual Conference

The Rise of Plain Language Laws
American Association of Law Schools, Transactional Law & Skills Section

Plain Language Laws as Public Policy
American Association of Law Schools, Section on Legal Writing

2021 The Laws, Policies, Effects, and Risks That Mandate Versatile Writing
Southeastern Association of Law Schools

The Rise of Plain Language Laws
Biennial Empire State Legal Writing Conference

Using Language and Culture to Build Cross-Cultural Connections
International Legal Education Abroad and LLM Administrators Conference

2020 Reply Briefs Are Not Repeat Briefs
Legal Writing Institute Workshop

Selected International Presentations

Argentina

2024   **Plain English Skills for Lawyers**
Universidad Austral

2023   **Keynote, Coordinating International Plain Language Law Research**
Plain Language Association International (PLAIN) Annual Conference
Clear Language and Transparency for an Open Government
Legislaturas Conectadas in Argentine Senate
Moderator, Plain Legislation Panel
PLAIN Annual Conference
Plain English Skills for Lawyers
Universidad Austral
Roundtable with Buenos Aires Legislators, Librarians, and Lawyers

Finland

2025   **Co-Facilitator, Brain Factory Workshop**
Legal Design Summit

India

2023   **Popular But Do They Work?: How and Why Lawmakers Use Plain Language Laws**
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law

2021   **Distinguished Guest Speaker, Class Actions in the U.S.**
Symbiosis Law School

Kazakhstan

2025   **The American Legal System and Legal Profession**
U.S. Consulate American Space

2024   **Vision & Philosophy on Legal Education**
KIMEP School of Law

2023   **International Commercial Contract Design**
KIMEP School of Law

2021   **Using Plain Language in Contracts**
KIMEP School of Law

Norway

2025   **Keynote, Plain Language and the Future of Contracts**
Contracts and Clear Language; International Investment Contracts, U. of Inland Norway

2024   **The Future of Plain Language Law Research**
The Language Council of Norway

Poland

2023   **English at Work**
Center for American Studies

Turkey

2024   **Contracts & Notices in 2050: The Next Evolution of Drafting**
Bahcesehir University International (BAU)
American Legal Scholarship & Effective Scholarly Writing
BAU Advanced Legal Studies Program
Criminal Law Case Study: The Alec Baldwin Trial
BAU Advanced Legal Studies Program
How American Judges Interpret Laws
BAU Advanced Legal Studies Program

Selected International Presentations (continued) ———————

🇹🇷 Turkey

2023   How Plain Language is Transforming Legal Documents in the US and the World
BAU

2022   United States Plain Language Laws
BAU

2021   American Law and Lawyers
Istanbul Bar Association
The U.S. Common Law System
Istanbul Bar Association

🇺🇿 Uzbekistan

2021   Using Plain Language in Contracts
Tashkent State University of Law

Conferences Organized ———————

2024   ABA Conference on Language, Justice, and Technology (co-organizer)
Community members, ABA, lawyers, judges, court staff, technologists,
interpreters, and law professors discuss language justice

Education ———————

2010   J.D., New York University School of Law

2007   B.A., Hamilton College

Professional & Community Services ———————

2023-2024   ABA Language Access Standards Advisory Committee

2023   Lead Instructor
The School of the New York Times
Taught Inside the UN/Journalism/Law course to high school students from
USA and abroad

2020-2023   Certification Committee
International Plain Language Federation
Joined global team of experts to pitch first international plain language standard
to International Standards Organization; co-designed certification standards for
trainings

2020-2021   Assistant Editor
Journal of the Legal Writing Institute

2019-2020   Co-Creator
Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System
Joined judges to co-design training on judiciary for Colorado General Assembly

2019-2020   Our Courts Instructor
Colorado Judicial Institute
Joined judges to co-teach high school class about judge selection and judiciary

2017-2021   Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
Union Fire Company; Golden Fire Department