

# **KELLY WEGEL, ESQ.**

Terry College, Ivester Hall E319      Kwegel@uga.edu

## **EDUCATION**

### **J.D., *cum laude*, University of Georgia School of Law, 2014**

*Georgia Law Review* Notes Editor

Study abroad and global summer internship in China and India, Summer 2012

### **B.A., *magna cum laude*, University of Georgia, 2009**

Journalism and Spanish double major

Photography editor for Red & Black newspaper and UGAzine magazine

Dean's list (2006) and Presidential Scholar (2007)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Lecturer, Legal Studies, Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA August 2025 – Present**

Fall 2025:

LEGL 2700: The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business, 3 credit hours

Four sections, 241 students total

Spring 2026:

LEGL 2700: The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business, 3 credit hours

Four sections

### **Associate Magistrate Court Judge, Athens-Clarke County January 2022 – July 2025**

Appointed, full-time. Designated to sit as a Superior and Municipal Court Judge

Preside over civil lawsuits, dispossessory trials, garnishments, default judgments, abandoned motor vehicle cases, personal property foreclosures, citizen warrant applications, bond hearings, preliminary (probable cause) hearings, and *ex-parte* emergency protective orders.

Perform weddings.

On call 24/7/365 in rotation with two other judges for arrest and search warrants.

Created training materials for clerks for abandoned motor vehicle and personal property foreclosure cases.

### **Assistant Public Defender, Western Judicial Circuit, Athens, GA February 2018 – January 2022**

Represented clients at all stages of felony and misdemeanor cases including appeals and oral argument at Georgia Court of Appeals.

First chair on multiple serious felony trials.

**Staff Attorney, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, Atlanta, GA  
February 2016 – February 2018**

Conducted research, translated Spanish *pro se* filings, wrote detailed legal memoranda, and drafted opinions to assist judges in the disposition of federal appeals involving criminal law, sentencing, federal and state *habeas corpus*, civil rights, immigration, social security, and employment discrimination.

**Assistant Public Defender, Conasauga Judicial Circuit, Dalton, GA  
August 2014 – February 2016**

Represented clients at all stages of felony and misdemeanor cases.

Office representative for the Drug Court Alternative Sentencing team.

**Legal Intern, Office of General Counsel, Savannah River Remediation, Aiken, SC  
May 2013 – August 2013**

Employment and contract law.

**Legal Intern, U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Fraud Section Foreign Corrupt  
Practices Act Investigation and Prosecution Unit, Washington, D.C.  
January 2013 – May 2013**

**TEACHING, PRESENTING, AND SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE**

November 2025	Guest speaker, Pre-Law Rising student group at the University of Georgia
April 2025	Presenter for the Listening, Learning, and Leading group comprised of Athens-Clarke County elected officials and leaders, topic: Magistrate Court
March 2025	Presenter, Open Data Day Project, topic: The Use of Public and Private Data in the Court System
2024-2025	Instructor, Magistrate Court Training Council 2024 - Certification for new judges: legal terminology 2025 - Re-certification for sitting judges: debt collections, service of process, loan companies, and garnishment.
2023	Instructor, Sheriff's Citizens' Academy, topic: Courthouse Safety from the Bench
2022-2025	Guest speaker, organizer, and tour guide for annual UGA Law LLM student visit to courthouse
2022-2023	Project Yellowjacket mock interviewer for Athens Career Academy high school students
2022	Presenter, court training for newly-elected Clarke County Commissioners
2018-2025	Direct supervisor for undergraduate and law student interns in Public Defender's Office and Magistrate Court
2018-2022	Direct supervisor for law students practicing in court under the Law Student Practice Act
2014-2016	Mock trial coach, Dalton High School

## **SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP**

- 2025-2028 Board Member, the Wild Rumpus parade and fundraiser
- 2023-2025 Member and Editor, Georgia Magistrate Court Benchbook Committee
- 2022-present Athens Access to Justice Initiative volunteer at free legal clinics
- 2022-2025 Member, Board Member (FY 2024) and Secretary (FY 2025), Western Circuit Bar Association
- 2022-Present UGA Law student mentor
- 2013-2014 American Constitution Society President
- 2013-2014 Women Law Students Association Vice President
- 2013-2014 Barbri Sales Representative
- 2012-2013 Teaching Assistant for Professor Travis Trimble, Legal Research and Writing

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2019 Bill Daniel Trial Advocacy Program graduate
- 2014 National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Student
- 2014 Shelley D. Knox Award for Outstanding Public Interest Student
- 2014 Ellen R. Jordan Award for Outstanding Public Interest Student
- 2013 Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Scholarship Recipient

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND TRAININGS**

- 2025-present Academy of Legal Studies in Business (ALSB) Member and Annual Conference Attendee  
2025 Conference - Providence, RI. Sessions attended: Business Law Career Clinic; Curriculum/Pedagogy; An Overview of Business Law Cases; Intellectual Property Law; Technology Law and Big Data; Bringing Law to Life: Experiential Learning in Legal Studies; Master Teacher Symposium; Holmes-Cardozo Finalist Session.
- 2022-2025 Criminal Justice Information Systems security training
- 2022-2025 Ongoing judicial education through Magistrate Court Council and Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
- 2024 Advantage Behavioral Health, mental health and the court system training
- 2024 Athens-Clarke County Police K9 Officer training/observation
- 2018-2022 Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- 2014-present Georgia Association for Women Lawyers

## **BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

- Georgia Bar, member in good standing
- Georgia Supreme Court and Georgia Court of Appeals