

# Denise Mayo Harle

---

## EDUCATION

### **Duke University School of Law**, J.D., *cum laude*, 2009

Duke Law Merit Scholarship

*Executive Editor*, Law & Contemporary Problems

*Law Student Representative*, Duke University Academic Integrity Council

*Law School Representative*, Duke Graduate & Professional Student Council

*Research Assistant*, Professors Stuart Benjamin and Barak Richman

### **Stanford University**, M.A., Political Science, 2005 – PhD candidate (ABD)

Stanford Graduate Fellowship; satisfied PhD field requirements in American Politics, Political Organizations

*Humanities & Science Representative*, Stanford Graduate Student Council

*Research Assistant*, Hoover Institution, Professors John F. Cogan, Terry Moe, David W. Brady

### **Florida State University**

B.S., *summa cum laude*, Major in Interdisciplinary Social Science | Minor in Philosophy, 2002

B.A., *summa cum laude*, Major in Psychology | Minor in Mathematics, 2002

Phi Beta Kappa; National Merit Scholar Fellowship; Mortar Board; Seminole Torchbearers Leadership Award

*Vice-President*, Golden Key International Honour Society

*Student Member*, Dean's Task Force on Ethics, Student Senate, Student Health Advisory Committee

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

### **Shutts & Bowen LLP**, Tallahassee, FL

*Partner, Appellate Practice Group and Constitutional Law Section*

November 2023 – July 2025

- Ultimate responsibility for case strategy, briefing, and oral argument in complex administrative and constitutional litigation

### **Alliance Defending Freedom**, Lawrenceville, GA / Tallahassee, FL

*Legal Counsel, Senior Counsel, and Director of Center for Life*

October 2017 – October 2023

- Led litigation team defending clients against government infringement on First Amendment rights of free speech, religious freedom, and conscience
- Defended legislation in state and federal courts nationwide against various constitutional claims
- Lead role in case strategy, briefing, oral argument, and public advocacy

### **Office of the Florida Attorney General**, Tallahassee, FL

June 2015 – October 2017

*Deputy Solicitor General*

- Lead role in strategy, briefing, and oral argument in high-profile cases in state and federal trial and appellate courts, on a variety of constitutional matters

### **Greenberg Traurig, LLP**, Los Angeles, CA

May 2011 – May 2015

*Appellate Litigation Associate*

- Represented clients in state and federal matters including intellectual property, products liability, regulatory, false advertising, class actions, defamation, arbitration, fraud, and contract disputes
- Sole or lead associate on variety of high-stakes cases on appeal, on issues including constitutional questions and questions of statutory interpretation
- Substantial role in performing legal analysis and drafting persuasive appellate briefs

**Supreme Court of Florida**, Tallahassee, FL  
*Judicial Clerk for the Honorable Justice Ricky L. Polston*

August 2009 – May 2011

- Prepared cases in matters including constitutional challenges, policy-based appeals, and statutory interpretation
- Drafted case analyses, memoranda, recommendations, and judicial opinions for the Court

## BAR ADMISSIONS

California	U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit
Florida	U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit
Georgia	U.S. District Court, M.D. Fla.
U.S. Supreme Court	U.S. District Court, N.D. Fla.
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit	U.S. District Court, S.D. Fla.
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit	U.S. District Court, C.D. Cal.
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit	U.S. District Court, N.D. Cal.
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit	U.S. District Court, S.D. Cal.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL 2025–present

*Professor and Founding Director, First Amendment Clinic, College of Law*  
*Head of Conscience Liberty, Institute for Governance & Civics*

- Teaching upper-level doctrinal seminars in Law & Religion and The First Amendment, as well as the experiential First Amendment Clinic course
- Directing First Amendment Clinic's operations and managing the litigation docket of pro bono cases involving freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, press and petition

**Concordia University**, St. Paul, MN 2022–present

*Dissertation Faculty*

- Advise as dissertation committee member for doctoral students assimilating research on a variety of subjects involving policy, sociology, technology, education, and health sciences.
- Provide critical feedback on writing technique and research methodology.
- Dissertation committee member:
  - Patton, S., Prenatal Exercise: The Importance of Patient-Provider Communication (2025)
  - McCarthy, M., Exploring the Nexus of Perfectionism, Physical Activity, and Smartphone Addiction: A Study Among College Adults (2024)

**Duke University School of Law**, Durham, NC 2007–2008

*Teaching Assistant*

Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing

**Stanford University**, Palo Alto, CA 2003–2005

*Teaching Assistant*

Introduction to American National Government and Politics  
Political Power and American Cities  
Campaigns, Voting, Media, & Elections

Politics and Public Policy  
Justice

## SELECT SPEECHES AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Florida State University Office of Public Policy Events, Tallahassee, FL, *The First Amendment: The Limitations of Free Speech*, December 2025

The King's Academy O'Keeffe Pre-Law Studies Program, West Palm Beach, FL, *Free to Speak: The First Amendment for Future Lawyers*, December 2025

The Florida Bar Media & Communications Law Committee's Reporters' Workshop, Tallahassee, FL, *First Amendment Cases and Updates*, November 2025

Manatee County Inn of Court, remote, *Current Issues in First Amendment Law*, October 2025

The Federalist Society Professional Responsibility Executive Committee, remote, *Ethics or Ideology? Bar Associations and the Boundaries of Professional Discipline*, August 2025

Florida Federalist Society Young Lawyers Conference, Tampa, FL, *Breaking Bad Precedent: Strategies for Litigating to Overturn Flawed Rulings*, July 2025

Florida State University Institute for Governance & Civics, Tallahassee, FL, *Religious Liberty at the U.S. Supreme Court*, April 2025

Florida State University Law, The Federalist Society, Tallahassee, FL, *Text, History, Tradition, and Constitutional Limits of the Second Amendment*, March 2025

Tallahassee Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society, Tallahassee, FL, *Florida Supreme Court Round-Up*, September 2024

Puerto Rico Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society, San Juan, P.R., *U.S. Supreme Court Trends and Updates on Religious Freedom*, September 2024

Pontifical Catholic University School of Law, Ponce, P.R., *Recent Developments in Free Exercise and Establishment Clause Jurisprudence*, September 2024

Gadsden County Civic Education Townhall, Quincy, FL, *Legal and Policy Breakdown of Constitutional Amendments on 2024 Florida Ballot*, September 2024

Florida Federalist Society Young Lawyers Conference, Coral Gables, FL, *Florida Supreme Court Round-Up*, July 2024

Liberty University Law School, The Federalist Society, Lynchburg, VA, *The First Amendment and the Commercial Speech Doctrine*, March 2024

PBS NewsHour, remote, *The abortion legal landscape a year after overturn of Roe v. Wade*, June 2023

Texas Review of Law & Politics Symposium, Austin, TX, *Legal Questions After Dobbs*, February 2023

Orange County Federalist Society Lawyers Chapter, Irvine, CA, *Breaking Down the Supreme Court's Dobbs Decision*, October 2022

University of Florida Law, The Federalist Society, Gainesville, FL, *The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment After Dobbs*, October 2022

University of Toledo Law, The Federalist Society, Toledo, OH, *After Dobbs: The Future of Abortion Law in America*, September 2022

Ohio Northern University Law, The Federalist Society, Ada, OH, *Overturning Roe: Dobbs and the Future of Abortion*, September 2022

University of Virginia Law, The Federalist Society, remote, *Unpacking Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, July 2022

Senate Judiciary Committee, Washington, D.C., *A Post-Roe America: the Legal Consequences of the Dobbs Decision*, July 2022

Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C., *Life After Roe Symposium*, July 2022

Americans for Fair Treatment, remote, *Implications of the SCOTUS Leak*, May 2022

Duquesne University Law, The Federalist Society, Pittsburgh, PA, *Supreme Court Predictions: Dobbs, Fundamental Rights, and the Fourteenth Amendment*, February 2022

Florida State University College of Medicine, Medical Students for Life, remote, *Health Care Conscience Rights*, February 2022

Florida Faith and Community Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting, Tallahassee, FL, *Impact of the U.S. Supreme Court on Florida's Laws*, February 2022

Annual Florida Chapters Conference, The Federalist Society, Orlando, FL, *Dobbs and the Future of Abortion Law*, February 2022

Georgetown Law, The Federalist Society, remote, *Oral Argument Analysis and the Supreme Court's Dobbs Dilemma Over Stare Decisis*, December 2021

Villanova Law, The Federalist Society, Philadelphia, PA, *Stare Decisis and Substantive Due Process on the Docket*, October 2021

Oklahoma City University Law, The Federalist Society, Oklahoma City, OK, *Current Constitutional Disputes in State and Federal Abortion Law*, September 2021

University of Mississippi Law, The Federalist Society, Oxford, MS, *Mississippi Constitutional Blockbuster at the U.S. Supreme Court*, September 2021

Heartbeat International Annual Conference, Columbus, OH, *Speech Regulations and the First Amendment After NIFLA v. Becerra*, April 2021

Indiana University Students for Life, remote, *Breaking Down the Supreme Court's Decision in June Medical Services v. Russo*, October 2020

Georgia State Law, The Federalist Society, remote, *Higher Education: the Free Exchange of Approved Ideas?*, October 2020

Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity, remote, *Medical Conscience Rights and the First Amendment*, April 2020

The Federalist Society, remote, *Courthouse Steps Preview: June Medical Services v. Russo*, March 2020

NPR, remote, *Should Transgender Students Be Allowed To Compete in Women's Athletics?*, March 2020

Louisiana Association of Christian Lawyers, Lafayette, LA, *Current Legal Threats to Religious Liberty*, November 2019

National Institute of Family & Life Advocates Medical & Legal Summit, Virginia Beach, VA, *Medical Conscience Rights in Constitutional and Statutory Law*, May 2019

Florida State University College of Medicine, Medical Students for Life, Tallahassee, FL, *Legal Protections for Health Care Conscience Rights*, March 2019

University of Georgia Law, The Federalist Society, Athens, GA, *Medical Conscience Rights, Exemptions and the First Amendment*, March 2019

Louisiana Association of Christian Lawyers, Lafayette, LA, *U.S. Supreme Court Update on Compelled Speech and Religious Freedom*, November 2018

Wake Forest Law, Journal of Law & Public Policy Symposium, Winston Salem, NC, *Health Care Conscience Rights and Constitutional Conflicts*, October 2018

The Claremont Institute, remote, *Political Gerrymandering and Compelled Speech on the Docket*, April 2018

C-SPAN, Washington, D.C., *California's Reproductive FACT Act at the U.S. Supreme Court*, March 2018

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

*Legal Considerations* (book chapter), Christina Beaudoin, *Professional Developments in Exercise Science*, (Routledge 2026)

*"The People and Their Elected Lawmakers": An Update on Democracy and Federalism in Post-Dobbs America*, 27 *Tex. Rev. L. & Pol.* 649 (2023)

*Abortion Laws in Oklahoma Subject of Fractured Decision at State Supreme Court*, *The FedSoc Blog*, June 2023

*Guilford County decides to respect the First Amendment*, *Greensboro News & Record*, Feb. 2022

*Virginia's Withdrawal from ERA Ratification Lawsuit Benefits Women*, *Townhall*, Feb. 2022

*Virginia Values Act tramples freedom*, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Oct. 2020

*Supreme Court Should Rule for the FDA In COVID-19 Abortion Suit*, *The Daily Wire*, Sept. 2020

*NIFLA Decision Affirms First Amendment's Purpose: Protect Minority Viewpoints*, *Jurist*, July 2020

*La. Abortion Law at Issue in High Court Case Protects Women*, Law360, Mar. 2020

*A long-awaited opportunity to close the loophole on third-party standing*, SCOTUSblog, Jan. 2020

*New York's latest bid to bully the religious*, New York Post, Nov. 2019

## **MEMBERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, AND AWARDS**

Association of American Law Schools (2025-present)

Program Chair, Law & Religion Section (2026-present)

The Federalist Society Executive Committee on Professional Responsibility & Legal Education (2025-present)

Vice Chair (2026-present)

FSU College of Law Clinical Education Committee (2025-present)

Clinical Legal Education Association (2025-present)

Second Circuit of Florida Judicial Nominating Commission (2024-present)

First District Court of Appeal American Inn of Court (2015-2017; 2024-present)

Florida's Faith & Community Advisory Council (2022-2025)

American Enterprise Institute Leadership Network (2018)

U.S. Supreme Court Fellow, National Association of Attorneys General (2017)

The Florida Bar Client Security Fund Committee (2016-2017)

Tallahassee Women Lawyers (Events Chair, 2015-2017)

California Daily Journal's Top 20 Defense Verdicts (2011)