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Boston College Law School

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Chirba, Gionfriddo Promoted to Professors of LRR&W

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Newton, MA—Boston College Law School is pleased to announce the promotions of Jane Kent Gionfriddo and Mary Ann Chirba to Professors of Legal Reasoning, Research and Writing.

Jane Kent Gionfriddo began teaching in the Legal Reasoning, Research & Writing Program at Boston College Law School in 1982. In 1985, she became the director of the program and held this position for twenty-two years. In May 1999, Professor Gionfriddo was awarded the Boston College Distinguished Teaching Award for 1999-2000.

Professor Gionfriddo has held a variety of positions with the Legal Writing Institute, an organization devoted to the pedagogy and scholarship of legal analysis and writing and whose 2100 members come from law schools and English departments in the United States as well as from 38 foreign countries. She served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Institute from 1995 to 2004, and served as President from 2000 through 2002. From 1994 to 2000, she also co-edited the Institute’s semi-annual newsletter, "The Second Draft."

In 2008, the Institute’s Board of Directors appointed Jane Gionfriddo as the first Editor-in-Chief of a new publication, the Legal Writing Institute’s Monograph Series. The Monograph Series is electronically published on the Institute's web site and includes volumes devoted to topics relevant to teaching legal analysis and writing. While Editor-in-Chief, Professor Gionfriddo oversaw the design of the web site as well as the creation and publication of the first volume on "The Art of Critiquing Written Work." From 2008 to 2010, Professor Gionfriddo also served on the Board of Editors of the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute, which publishes articles on legal analysis and writing issues.

Professor Gionfriddo has worked as a consultant at major Boston law firms, giving presentations to and working individually with associates, and has also been a consultant at other law schools on curricular design. In addition, she has presented widely, including multiple times at the Legal Writing Institute Conference, at the Association of Legal Writing Directors Conference, at the American Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, and at the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting and Conference. A co-founder of the New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers, a regional organization that seeks to promote excellence in teaching, Professor Gionfriddo organized an interactive workshop on analytical feedback on student writing.

Professor Gionfriddo’s scholarship focuses on pedagogical issues concerning legal analysis and writing, including articles on providing effective analytical feedback on legal documents and the importance of lawyers’ synthesizing cases in a sophisticated manner. As a member of the American Bar Association Subcommittee on Communication Skills, Professor Gionfriddo worked as a contributing author on the second edition of the Sourcebook on Legal Writing Programs, which describes "best practices" in the field of legal analysis, writing and research.

Mary Ann Chirba holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Colgate University and a J.D., magna cum laude, from Boston College Law School. She holds a Doctorate of Science in Health Policy and Management as well as a Master’s in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health.
Professor Chirba has taught a variety of courses at Boston College Law School, including Legal Reasoning Research & Writing, Comparative Health Law, Health Care Law & Policy I and II, Advocacy Writing, Advanced Legal Writing, and Product Liability Law. Professor Chirba also lectures on various health law issues at Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital of Boston, Brandeis University and Tufts Medical School, and serves as an advisor to Boston's Schweitzer Fellowship and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Fellowship. A former litigator, she has been certified by the American Health Law Association as a mediator and arbitrator. In past years, Professor Chirba has been an adjunct faculty member at the Harvard School of Public Health, where she taught courses on Pharmaceutical Product Safety, “The Tobacco Wars,” Current Developments in Health Law, Managed Care Law & Regulation, and Medical Malpractice & Risk Management.

Her research interests are varied and include the Affordable Care Act, federal and state health care reform, emerging federal and international guidelines for stem cell research, regulation of medical drugs and devices, and legal protections for disabled children. She has published extensively on the Affordable Care Act, ERISA preemption in the health care sector, FDA regulation of medical products, and legal issues in developmental pediatrics.