

# BRIAN J. STEFFEN, PH.D.

**Simpson College**  
**701 North C Street**  
**Indianola, IA 50125**  
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## EDUCATION

### **Doctor of Philosophy:**

School of Journalism  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242

*Conferred:* May 1995

*Adviser:* Dr. Carolyn  
Stewart Dyer

*Dissertation:* Public and  
Private in Libel Doctrine:  
A Critical Legal Approach.

### **Master of Science:**

Department of Journalism  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50010

*Conferred:* May 1987

*Adviser:* Edmund G. Blinn

*Thesis:* Iowa Newspaper  
Editors' Knowledge of and  
Attitudes Toward Libel  
Law.

### **Bachelor of Arts:**

Department of Journalism  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50010

*Conferred:* May 1981

*Adviser:* Dale Boyd.

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

### **Professor and Chairman of Communication Studies — Simpson College (1989- )**

#### *Courses Taught:*

- Beginning Newswriting and Reporting
- Advanced Newswriting and Reporting
- Editing and Design
- Journalism Practicum
- Electronic Communication
- Mass Communication and Society
- Media, Sports and Society
- The Law of Communication
- Public Relations Methods
- Senior Colloquium: Generation X
- Senior Colloquium: Law and Society
- Issues in Information Technology
- Advertising Practicum
- Ethical Issues in Communication
- Introduction to Communication Studies
- Liberal Arts Seminar

#### *Key Accomplishments:*

- Promoted to rank of full professor, Fall 2005.
- Led 37 Simpson students on intercultural-communication tour of England, France, Switzerland, Austria and Germany, May 2004.
- Selected to participate in Simpson College faculty delegation to Curtin University, Perth, Australia, 2003.
- Elected chairman of Simpson College Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee, 2003-2004.
- Named winner of Simpson's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2002.

- Led 31 Simpson students on European-media tour of England, France and Italy, May 2001.
- Served one year as head of Small Programs Interest Group of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2001-2002.
- Served as president of the Iowa College Media Association, 2000-2002.
- Served as chair of the Ethics Committee of College Media Advisers, 1997-2001.
- Named chair of Communication Studies at Simpson in 1999.
- Leader in curriculum reform that led to creation of a Journalism and Mass Communication major at Simpson in 1997.
- Participated in creation of communication studies program in Simpson's Division of Adult Learning.
- Elected chair of Simpson's Admissions Committee in 1998.
- Guided program through period of growth that has seen enrollment rise from 60 majors and minors in 1989 to 170 in 2002.
- Secured funding for substantial departmental technology improvements in 1995.
- Led faculty in incorporating technology into learning experiences.
- Led effort to establish teaching roundtables to aid pedagogy at Simpson.
- Led efforts to establish greater ties between Iowa journalism educators and newspaper professionals through the creation of the Iowa Newspaper Foundation Student Journalism Committee.
- Tenured in 1996.

**Adjunct Instructor of Journalism; Iowa State University (1987-89):**

*Courses Taught:*

- Beginning Newswriting and Reporting
- Publicity Methods
- Advanced Newswriting and Reporting

**PROFESSIONAL MEDIA EXPERIENCE**

- Desk Editor, Associated Press; Des Moines, IA (1988-89)
- Associate Editor, Ames (Iowa) Daily Tribune (1984-88)
- Editor, Adel (Iowa) Dallas County News (1981-84)

**MEMBERSHIPS**

- Kappa Tau Alpha (National Journalism Honorary), 1987
- College Media Advisers, 1989-
  - ✓ Media Law Committee of CMA, 1992-
  - ✓ Ethics Committee of CMA, 1993-
    - Chair, 1997-2001
- Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 1990-
  - ✓ Law Division of AEJMC, 1993-
  - ✓ Media Ethics Division of AEJMC, 1997-
  - ✓ Small Programs Interest Group of AEJMC, 1996-
- Secretary-treasurer, 1997-99
- Research chair, 1999-2000
- Vice chair, 2000-2001
- Chair, 2001-2002
- Listserv Administrator, 1999-
- Iowa College Media Association, 2000-
  - ✓ Executive Director, 2005-
  - ✓ President, 2000-2001
  - ✓ Contest Director, 2001-2005
  - ✓ Convention Director, 2004-2005
- Student Press Law Center Advisory Council, 2002-
- Associated Collegiate Press Advisory Council, 2002-

## **AWARDS**

- Simpson College: Distinguished Teaching Award, 2002.
- Iowa College Media Association: Numerous awards (for The Simpsonian), 2002-
- American Scholastic Press Association, First Place with Special Merit (for The Simpsonian), 2000 and 2003.
- American Scholastic Press Association, First Place (for The Simpsonian), 1999 and 2002.
- Iowa Newspaper Association: Numerous first-, second- and third-place awards in news and editorial writing and photography, 1981-84.
- National Newspaper Association: Honorable mention, best editorial page, 1983.

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Critical examinations of:
  - ✓ Defamation law in general and as pertains to private plaintiffs.
  - ✓ Free-speech and free-press rights of students.
  - ✓ Reputational theory.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- John Marshall Law Review: "Freedom of the Private University Student Press: A Constitutional Proposal," Fall 2002.
- College Media Review: "The Peeping Toms of the First Amendment," Summer 2000.
- Journal of Mass Media Ethics: "The Professor and Domestic Abuse" (case study), Spring 1999.
- Communications and the Law: "The Falsity Burden of Private Defamation Plaintiffs," September 1994.
- Keeping Free Presses Free: "PC Debates Rage on College Campuses," December 1993.
- Des Moines Sunday Register: "Now Michael Jordan Can Be a Real Role Model," October 10, 1993.
- Des Moines Register: "Too Few Can Master Credit Card Use," March 10, 1990.
- Journalism Quarterly: "What Iowa Editor Know About Libel," Winter 1989.

## **CONFERENCES, PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PANELS**

- "The State of the First Amendment," Iowa High School Press Association, Des Moines, IA, October 2005.
- First Amendment Institute, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., June 2005.
- "Freedom of Expression at the Private University," College Media Advisers, New York City, March 2005.
- "Can't We All Just Get Along? Journalism and the Liberal Arts," Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, August 2004 (panel moderator).
- "The Truth Hurts Less than the Cover Up," College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Dallas, TX, November 2003.
- "Challenges in Advising the Small-College Student Newspaper," College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Dallas, TX, November 2003.
- "Private Colleges and the First Amendment," College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Dallas, TX, November 2003.

- “Want to Know Your Readers? Start a Reader Advisory Board,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Dallas, TX, November 2003.
- National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, November 2002.
- “Going Global: Practical Advice for Journalism Study-Abroad Courses,” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Miami, FL, August 2002.
- “Teaching Communication Law Outside the Communication Law Course,” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Miami, FL, August 2002.
- “Must We Know Who Slept With Whom? Media Ethics and Privacy,” College Media Advisers/Associated College Press, Washington, DC, November 2000.
- “Freedom of the Private-University Student Press: A Constitutional Proposal,” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Phoenix, AZ, August 2000 .
- “GIFT: Great Ideas for Teaching,” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Phoenix, AZ, August 2000.
- Council of Independent Colleges, Service Learning in the Liberal-Arts College Environment, St. Louis, MO, June 2000.
- “Snake Oil Salesmen Beware: Legal Restraints on Advertising in the Student Press,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Atlanta, GA, November 1999.
- “The Ethics of Advocacy Journalism,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Atlanta, GA, November 1999.
- “Delivering Journalism Education Outside the Box,” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication National Convention, New Orleans, LA, August 1999.
- “Online Ethics: Old Values for a New Medium,” Columbia Scholastic Press Association National Convention, New York, NY, March 1999.
- “Can You? Should You? Ethics v. Law,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Kansas City, MO, November 1998.
- “Recruiting and Retaining Faculty and Students at Small Programs,” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication National Convention, Baltimore, MD, August 1998.
- “Can You? Should You? Ethics v. Law,” College Media Advisers/Columbia Scholastic Press Association, New York, NY, March 1998.
- “Student-Centered Teaching Meets Technology,” The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning, Minneapolis, MN, November 1997.
- “Selling Out: Ethics and the Ad,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Chicago, IL, October 1997.
- “Small Programs and AEJMC,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Chicago, IL, October 1997.
- Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication National Convention, Chicago, IL, August 1997.
- “The Devil Is In,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Orlando, FL, November 1996.
- “The First Amendment in Cyberspace,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Orlando, FL, November 1996.
- “Students, Writing and Controversy,” Simpson College Young Writers Conference, Indianola, IA, April 1996.
- “Libel: What It Is and How to Defend Against It,” Associated Collegiate Press Best of the Midwest Conference, Minneapolis, MN, March 1996.

- “Protect Your Rights: Publications Boards and Student Journalists,” College Media Advisers / Associated Collegiate Press, Washington, D.C., November, 1995.
- “Old Media in a New Age,” Simpson College Elderhostel, Indianola, IA, July, 1995.
- “Libel and the Private Plaintiff,” College Media Advisers / Associated Collegiate Press, New Orleans, LA, November, 1994.
- “Ethical Concerns of Small-College Journalists,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Dallas, TX, October 1993.
- “Political Correctness and the Campus Press,” College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press, Dallas, TX, October 1993.
- “Private Defamation Plaintiffs and Falsity Since *Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc. v. Hepps*,” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Kansas City, MO, August 1993.

### **CAMPUS SERVICE**

- Student-Media Search Committee (chair), 2005.
- Corporate Communication Search Committee (chair), 2003.
- Rhetoric and Speech Search Committee (chair), 2003.
- Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee, 2003- (chair 2003-2004).
- Program Review Committee (chair), 2003-2004.
- Society for Collegiate Journalists, founding adviser, 1999-
- College Admissions Committee, 1996- (chair 1998- )
- Vice President for Academic Affairs Search Committee, 1996.
- Faculty Marshall, 1995-97
- Budget and Coordinating Committee, 1994-96, 2005- .
- Association for Communication Studies (adviser), 1993-97.
- KSTM-FM Advisory Committee, 1992-
- May Term Subcommittee, 1991-92
- Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee, 1990-92.
- Freshman Orientation and Advising Program, 1990, 1994, 1997, 2001. 2003.
- Communication Council, 1989-

### **REFERENCES**

**Carolyn Dyer, Ph.D.**

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of Journalism  
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