



LegalWriting  
institute

## Announcing the 2021 Recipient of the Teresa G. Phelps Award

The Board of Directors of the Legal Writing Institute is delighted to announce that Christine Venter is the 2021 recipient of the Teresa Godwin Phelps Award for Scholarship in Legal Communication.



Christine Venter is the Director of the Legal Writing Program at Notre Dame Law School. She earned her B.A. degree from the University of Cape Town and her law degree from the University of Cape Town School of Law, where she was Editor in Chief of the Law Review. She also holds an LL.M in International Law and Human Rights (summa cum laude) from Notre Dame Law School and a J.S.D., also from NDLS.

After graduation Venter worked as an associate for a South African firm specializing in civil rights litigation. After relocating to the U.S. she

worked for a firm specializing in international business law, and later did legal aid work in the US.

Venter teaches Legal Writing I, Legal Research and Writing II, and Gender Issues and International Law. She also teaches International Moot Court and serves as the coach to the International Moot Court team.

The Phelps Award honors and draws attention to individual works of outstanding scholarship specific to the legal writing discipline that are published in any given calendar year. The award is meant to set aspirational standards for others writing in the field. In selecting recipients, the Selection Committee and the LWI Board focus solely on whether an individual work is specific to the discipline of legal writing and on whether it makes an outstanding contribution to the discipline.

The Selection Committee recommended Professor Venter for her [article](#) titled, *Dissenting from the Bench: The Rhetorical and Performative Oral Jurisprudence of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia*, 56 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 321 (2021). As one nominator wrote, “Professor Venter's fascinating and illuminating article examines the phenomenon of oral dissents by Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Juxtaposing the respective approaches of Justice Scalia and Justice Ginsburg, the article analyzes oral dissents as a unique medium of communication, reflecting particularized rhetorical styles as well as differing judicial assessments of the relevant audience.”

The LWI Board is grateful for the work of the Selection Committee in identifying nominees and making recommendations to the Board. The Committee includes Chair Mary Beth Beazley, Susan Chesler, Kim Perez Ricardo, Karen Sneddon, and Helena Whalen Bridge.