



ALWD

ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL WRITING DIRECTORS

Thomas H. Blackwell Memorial Award

Honoring

Louis J. Sirico, Jr.

and the

Golden Pen Award

Honoring

California's Plain-Language Jury
Instructions and
Justices Ronald M. George,
Carol A. Corrigan, and James D. Ward

Friday, January 5, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Lincoln West, Concourse Level,

Hilton Washington & Towers

Washington, D.C.

Welcome

Award ceremonies offer a time of celebration and remembrance.

Tonight, we remember and celebrate the life of Thomas Blackwell by conferring the fifth Thomas F. Blackwell Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Legal Writing. The award will be presented to Professor Louis J. Sirico, Jr., Director of the Legal Writing Program at Villanova University School of Law. The Blackwell Award is a joint award of the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) and the Legal Writing Institute (LWI).

We also celebrate tonight the first anniversary of one state's achievements in drafting jury instructions in plain English, with the hope that this successful experiment will inspire other states to follow their example. The Golden Pen Awards—being given tonight for the seventh time—will recognize California's achievement in drafting civil and criminal jury instructions in plain English. Awards will be given to:

- The California Judicial Council and its Chair, Chief Justice Ronald M. George;
- The California Judicial Council's Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions and its Chair, Justice Carol A. Corrigan; and
- The California Judicial Council's Committee on Civil Jury Instructions and its Chair, Justice James D. Ward.

Scribes — The American Society of Legal Writers — will hold a special event on Saturday, January 6, 2007 from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. At this program the Golden Pen Award recipients (and others) will explain the process by which California adopted plain jury instructions, and reflect on how well the new instructions have worked. The event is open to all and will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Hoover Room, Mezzanine Level.

This program you are now holding represents a modest effort to document tonight's event for those attending and for those unable to attend. Photographs of tonight's event—and previous award presentations by the Legal Writing Institute and the Association of Legal Writing Directors—are available on each organization's website (lwionline.org and alwd.org).

In the spirit of further celebration, we also wish to acknowledge that the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research yesterday gave an award to Anne Enquist, the Associate Director of Legal Writing and Co-Director of the Faculty Development Program at the Seattle University School of Law. We extend our congratulations to her and to the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research.

Tonight's Program

The Thomas F. Blackwell Memorial Award

- Welcome Craig T. Smith
President, Association of Legal Writing Directors
and
Susan H. Kosse
President, Legal Writing Institute
- Remarks James B. Levy
Nova Southeastern University
Shepard Broad Law Center
- Award Presentation of the Blackwell Award by Lisa Blackwell to Louis J. Sirico, Jr.

The LWI Golden Pen Awards

- Remarks Joseph Kimble
Chair, Golden Pen Committee
- Awards Presentation of Golden Pen Awards to:
- The California Judicial Council and
Chief Justice Ronald M. George
- The California Judicial Council
Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions and
Justice Carol A. Corrigan
- The California Judicial Council
Committee on Civil Jury Instructions and
Justice James D. Ward

The Thomas F. Blackwell Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Legal Writing



Thomas F. Blackwell

The Thomas F. Blackwell Award is named after a legal writing professor at the Appalachian School of Law who was killed in January 2002 by a disturbed law student. Professor Blackwell taught legal writing and was active in the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) and in the Legal Writing Institute (LWI), and the award is given jointly by both organizations.

The award recognizes a person who has made an outstanding contribution to improve the field of legal writing by demonstrating:

- the ability to nurture and motivate students to excellence;
- a willingness to help other legal writing educators to improve their teaching skills and legal writing programs; and
- an ability to create and integrate new ideas for teaching and motivating legal writing educators and students.

The first Blackwell Award was given in Washington, D.C. in 2003, during the AALS annual meeting. Tom's widow, Lisa Blackwell, presented the first award. Tom and Linda's three children, Zebadiah, Jillian, and Ezekiel, also attended the reception.

The Blackwell Award consists of a cash award of \$1000, a plaque, and a desk lamp. Why a desk lamp? The lamp represents both the light Professor Blackwell shed on his students and colleagues and his penchant for lightbulb jokes. A plaque, listing the winners, is also on display at Appalachian Law School. Further information about the award is available on the ALWD website (alwd.org).

Previous Blackwell Award Winners

January 2003
Washington, D.C.

Professor Richard K. Neumann
Hofstra University School of Law

January 2004
Atlanta, Georgia

Professor Pamela V. Lysaght
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

January 2005
San Francisco, California

Professor Ralph Brill
Chicago-Kent College of Law

January 2006
Washington, D.C.

Professor Mary Beth Beazley
*The Ohio State University
Michael E. Moritz College of Law*

Louis J. Sirico, Jr.

The recipient of the 2007 Blackwell Award is Louis J. Sirico, Jr., a Professor of Law and Director of the Legal Writing Program at Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania.

Professor Sirico received his B.A. from Yale University and his J.D. with Honors from the University of Texas School of Law. At Texas, he was an associate editor of the *Texas Law Review*, Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Criminal Law*, and was elected to the Order of the Coif. He was an attorney with several public interest organizations, including the National Public Interest Research Group in Washington, D.C., Fairfield County (Connecticut) Legal Services, and the Connecticut Citizens Action Group in Hartford. Before joining the Villanova faculty in 1981, he was an Assistant Professor at Rutgers University School of Law.

Professor Sirico has written and taught in several fields of law. His books in the area of legal writing include:

- *Judging: A Book for Student Clerks* (Matthew Bender 2002);
- *Legal Research* (2d ed., Aspen 2001)(with Nancy L. Schultz);
- *Persuasive Legal Writing for Lawyers and the Legal Profession* (2d ed., LexisNexis 2001) (with Nancy L. Schultz); and
- *Legal Writing and Other Lawyering Skills* (4th ed., LexisNexis 1998) (with Nancy L. Schultz).

He is also the author of numerous articles on legal research and writing, property, and constitutional law, which have been published in journals such as the *New York University Law Review*, *Iowa Law Review*, *Indiana Law Journal*, *Fordham Law Review*, *Connecticut Law Review*, and *Constitutional Commentary*.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the Legal Writing Institute and serves on the Editorial Board of *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing*, a quarterly journal published by The West Group; the Editorial Board of *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*; the Editorial Board of the *Legal Intelligencer* (the Philadelphia region's legal newspaper); the Advisory Board of the Villanova University Paralegal Program; and the Plain English Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He is also a frequent speaker at conferences on legal research and writing.

The Legal Writing Institute Golden Pen Awards

The “Golden Pen Award” recognizes those who make significant contributions to advance the cause of better legal writing. These contributions may take any form, such as promoting the use of clear language in public documents, outstanding scholarship or journalism about legal writing, exceptional writing in law practice, improving the quality of legal-writing instruction, or advocating for better writing within the legal community. The award is normally given to someone who is not an active member of the Legal Writing Institute, but active members are considered in exceptional circumstances.

Recipients of Previous Golden Pen Awards

January 2000 National Press Club Washington, D.C.	Arthur Levitt <i>Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission</i> (for his leadership in requiring plain language in financial-disclosure documents)
January 2002 New Orleans	Don Le Duc <i>Dean, Thomas M. Cooley Law School</i> (for his long-standing support of legal writing programs and teachers) Introductory remarks by Judge Lynn Hughes
January 2003 National Press Club Washington, D.C.	Linda Greenhouse <i>New York Times</i> (Supreme Court Correspondent, honored for making the law more accessible to the public and serving as a model “for legal writers everywhere”)
January 2004 Atlanta, Georgia	The Honorable Robert E. Keeton <i>U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts</i> (honored for his work in creating the Style Subcommittee that reviews all federal court rules to sharpen their content, and that completely restyled three sets of federal rules) Introductory remarks by Bryan Garner
January 2005 San Francisco, California	Professor Richard Wydick <i>University of California at Davis School of Law</i> (author of <i>Plain English for Lawyers</i>)
January 2006 Washington, D.C.	Joseph M. Williams Author of <i>Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace</i> Introductory remarks by George Gopen

Tonight's Golden Pen Awards

Tonight's Golden Pen Awards recognize California's achievement in drafting jury instructions in plain English. Tonight we honor:

- The California Judicial Council and its Chair, Chief Justice Ronald M. George

The Legal Writing Institute presents its seventh Golden Pen Award to the California Judicial Council and to its chair, Chief Justice Ronald M. George. In 1997, Chief Justice George had vision to appoint a task force to completely rewrite California's civil and criminal jury instructions in plain English—a huge undertaking. After years of work by judges, lawyers, and other experts, the two new sets of instructions have now been adopted by the Judicial Council. They will greatly improve the justice system by helping to ensure that jurors understand the law and apply it correctly.

- The California Judicial Council's Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions and to the Chair, Justice Carol A. Corrigan

The Legal Writing Institute presents its seventh Golden Pen Award to the California Judicial Council's Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions and to the Committee chair, Justice Carol A. Corrigan. In a monumental effort over eight years, the Committee wrote entirely new instructions in plain English. The instructions are proof that legal writing can be clear and at the same time accurate. They will greatly improve the justice system by helping to ensure that jurors understand the law and apply it correctly.

and

- The California Judicial Council's Committee on Civil Jury Instructions and its Chair, Justice James D. Ward

The Legal Writing Institute presents its seventh Golden Pen Award to the California Judicial Council's Committee on Civil Jury Instructions and to the Committee chair, Justice James D. Ward. In a monumental effort over six years, the Committee wrote entirely new instructions in plain English. The instructions are proof that legal writing can be clear and at the same time accurate. They will greatly improve the justice system by helping to ensure that jurors understand the law and apply it correctly.

ALWD

ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL WRITING DIRECTORS

ALWD is a non-profit, professional association of directors and former directors of legal research, writing, analysis, and advocacy programs from law schools throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia. ALWD is dedicated to improving legal education and the analytic, reasoning, and writing abilities of lawyers. There are more than 200 members representing more than 100 law schools. ALWD programs include:

- Holding a major biennial conference to share information and improve LRRW programs generally;
- Publishing information about LRRW and curriculum design;
- Funding scholarship in the LRRW field by LRRW instructors;
- Providing services such as the directors' listserv for the constant and current exchange of ideas;
- Providing many resources for LRRW faculty; and
- Developing and supporting the ALWD Citation Manual.

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The Legal Writing Institute

With more than 2,000 members around the world, the Legal Writing Institute (LWI) is an international organization dedicated to improving legal writing. It was founded in 1984 at the Seattle University School of Law (then the University of Puget Sound School of Law). In 2003, the Institute moved to its current headquarters at Mercer University School of Law in Macon, Georgia.

The Institute promotes its activities through its newsletter, *The Second Draft*, published twice each a year. The Institute also publishes annually a scholarly journal called *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*.

The Institute has held a biennial conference since 1984. The next conference will be from July 14-17, 2008 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

LWI membership is free and available to anyone who is interested in legal writing or the teaching of legal writing.

LWI Officers

President

Susan Hanley Kosse

University of Louisville, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, Louisville, Kentucky

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Cliff Zimmerman, *Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, Illinois*

*The Thomas F. Blackwell
Memorial Award Committee*

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Lisa Blackwell

Mary Beth Beazley, *The Ohio State University, Michael E. Moritz College of Law,
Columbus, Ohio*

Ralph Brill, *Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, Illinois*

Susan H. Kosse, *University of Louisville, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law,
Louisville, Kentucky*

Pamela V. Lysaght, *University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Detroit, Michigan*

Richard Neumann, *Hofstra University School of Law, Hempstead, New York*

Craig T. Smith, *Vanderbilt University Law School, Nashville, Tennessee*



LWI Golden Pen Committee

Chair

Joseph R. Kimble, *Thomas M. Cooley School of Law, Lansing, Michigan*

Members

Louis J. Sirico, Jr., *Villanova University School of Law, Villanova, Pennsylvania*

Susan Thrower, *DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, Illinois*

Mark E. Wojcik, *The John Marshall School, Chicago, Illinois*

Christopher G. Wren, *Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Appeals Unit
Wisconsin Department of Justice, Madison, Wisconsin*

LWI Board Liaison

Suzanne Rowe, *University of Oregon School of Law, Eugene, Oregon*

Website Committee Liaison

Mimi Samuel, *Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington*

*The Golden Pen and Blackwell Award Plaques being given tonight were
created by the Beaux Arts Studios of Chicago*

Upcoming Conferences

Saturday, January 6, 2007 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	Scribes (The American Society of Legal Writers) Program on Plain-Language Jury Instructions “A Conversation with the California Justices (and Others) on Guidelines and Process” Marriott Wardman Park Hotel Hoover Room, Mezzanine Level
March 9-10, 2007	The Art of Advocacy: Writing to Win Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas
March 10-11, 2007	Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference University of Nevada, Las Vegas
March 15-17, 2007	The Pedagogy of Legal Writing Nairobi, Kenya
May 4-5, 2007	Global Legal Skills Conference The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois
May 17-18, 2007	Back to the Future of Legal Research Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, Illinois
May 31-June 1, 2007	Lone Star LRW Conference Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, Fort Worth
June 14-16, 2007	ALWD Conference University of Denver, Denver, Colorado
July 18-20, 2007	Once Upon a Legal Time: Developing the Skills of Storytelling in Law City University, London, England
September 21-22, 2007	Central Region LRW/Legal Writing Conference University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law
July 14-17, 2008	13th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute Indianapolis, Indiana

Program Prepared by
Mark E. Wojcik
The John Marshall Law School
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