

To: Susan Hanley Duncan, President, Legal Writing Institute  
From: Sarah Ricks, Chair, LWI Committee on Cooperation Among Clinical, Pro Bono, and Legal Writing Faculty  
Re: Committee Report for 2007-08  
Date: May 2008  
Cc: Cliff Zimmerman

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**A. Members**

The members of the Committee on Cooperation Among Clinical, Pro Bono, and Legal Writing Faculty for 2007-08 are: Tracy Bach (Vermont), Tom Cobb (U.Washington), Ariana Levinson (U.Louisville), Margaret Philips (Buffalo), Rebecca Scharf (UNLV), Deborah Schmedemann (William Mitchell), Steve Schwinn (Maryland), Evelyn Tenenbaum (Albany), Laurel Oates (Seattle), Susan Wawrose (Dayton), Nancy Wanderer (Maine), and Sarah Ricks (Rutgers-Camden), Chair.

**B. Charges**

The 2007-8 charges for the Committee on Cooperation Among Clinical, Pro Bono, and Legal Writing Faculty were:

**Charge 1:**

Continue to identify such connections where they exist, to consider how to provide information on what is being done now to members who seek it, and to consider possible projects or future activities by LWI on this subject

**Charge 2:**

Consider possible solutions to legal writing problems identified by the informal survey of clinical and externship faculty, including developing suggestions to help LRW and clinical professors use a shared vocabulary for teaching analytical and writing concepts

**C. Report**

In both 2006 and 2007, the LWI Committee on Cooperation Among Clinical, Pro Bono, and Legal Writing Faculty undertook a national e-survey of legal writing faculty to identify examples of cooperation among clinical, pro bono, externship, and legal writing faculty.

The 2007 survey results are attached to this report, were posted today on the LWI ListServ, and soon will be posted on the LWI website (go to [www.lwionline.org](http://www.lwionline.org), scroll down the left column menu to Surveys, then click on Cooperation Survey).

The Committee hopes every faculty member interested in experimenting with collaboration will review the survey results for ideas and inspiration.

The survey results are useful to LRW faculty interested in ways to reach out to clinical, externship, and pro bono colleagues - whether to experiment with new teaching methods, or to use real legal problems to craft assignments, or to spark student interest in clinics, or to build bridges among like-minded faculty.

For the same reasons, the survey results are useful to teachers in clinical, externship, or pro bono programs interested in collaboration with legal writing faculty. After the survey results are posted on the LWI website, therefore, I will try to post an announcement on other ListServes and potentially interested blogs, with a link to the LWI website location.

The 2007 survey was broader than the first survey because it also sought views on whether all law faculty currently use the same vocabulary to coach the writing process and, if not, whether that would be helpful to our shared educational mission. The 2007 survey tool also was more efficient than the first survey. Tom Cobb of University of Washington and his law school's IT staff designed an interactive survey tool that allowed responses to be efficiently compiled.

The 2007 survey was announced via the LWI ListServ and Dircon. While the survey results were compiled through the survey tool, the raw responses were somewhat hard to follow. The Committee is very grateful to Susan Wawrose (Dayton) for summarizing the survey results into a readable document.

While the 2007 survey respondents are not identified in the results, a member of the Cooperation Committee has volunteered to put interested teachers in contact with particular survey respondents, if the survey respondent is willing to answer questions or help replicate a particular example of cooperation. That Cooperation Committee member is Ariana Levinson (U. Louisville).

The 2006 survey results already are posted on the LWI website. In addition, Susan Wawrose and Sarah Ricks co-authored a narrative summary of the 2006 survey results. That short summary was published in the Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors as a response to the 2007 AALS section meeting, titled "When Worlds Collide: Exploring Inter-Relationships and Collaboration Between Clinicians and Legal Writing Teachers in Teaching and Scholarship." The JALWD piece is available here: [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1088137](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1088137) and soon will be posted on the LWI website.

#### **D. Conclusion**

In addition to the immediate follow-up tasks of making the 2007 survey results accessible to a broader audience, possible future projects for this Committee might be to develop suggestions and materials to help LRW programs and clinics find common language to teach analytical and writing concepts - or to reinforce shared vocabulary if legal writing and other faculty already use some of the same words to talk about writing.