

Call for Proposals

TENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON APPLIED LEGAL STORYTELLING

Hosted by The University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan

July 9-11, 2025

This is the call for proposals for the tenth biennial conference on Applied Legal Storytelling (AppLS). This conference is sponsored by the Legal Writing Institute (LWI) and The Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA). We are offering two deadlines for submitting proposals: December 13, 2024 (priority deadline) and February 7, 2025 (extended deadline).

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Applied Legal Storytelling Conference brings together academics, judges, other lawmakers, practitioners, and any other type of legal storyteller. The conference has previously convened in 2007 (London), 2009 (Portland), 2011 (Denver), 2013 (London), 2015 (Seattle), 2017 (Washington D.C.), 2019 (Boulder), 2021 (Virtual/Mercer), and 2023 (London).

AppLS examines the use of stories, storytelling, or narrative elements in law practice, legal education, and the law. This definition is intentionally broad to allow people creativity in the way they think and present on the topic. Examples may include:

- ways in which creative nonfiction and fiction-writing techniques or narrative theory can inform legal storytelling;
- stories in the law, or law as stories;
- legal storytelling and metaphor;
- client story advocacy;
- counter storytelling;
- professional identity formation through legal storytelling;
- cognitive nature and psychology of storytelling and narrative;
- using legal storytelling to foster empathy and promote civil discourse; and
- ethical considerations in legal storytelling.

Undoubtedly, there are many other avenues to explore.

To continue the storytelling conversation for this tenth conference, and to welcome new attendees, we are providing resources for those interested in submitting a proposal and who wish to generate ideas or respond to others' ideas. The first is a link to the [second AppLS bibliography](#), including articles that have emerged from previous storytelling conferences. Second, there are articles included in this LWI [Monograph double volume](#), dedicated to the topic (scroll down to Volumes 10 and 11). We are also happy to answer questions and offer you suggestions—if you are a newcomer and interested in becoming involved, please reach out.

PRESENTATION FORMATS

We encourage creativity in presentation formats! And, like previous AppLS conferences, this conference will be collegial, inclusive, and supportive of your work. The conference will include 45-minute and 25-minute time slots. For the 45-minute time slots, we welcome interactive, panel (3-5 panelists), or roundtable (discussion-based) presentation proposals, as well as other format types. For the 25-minute time slots, we envision presenters adopting something like the 14-to-18-minute TED-style format of rehearsed presentations that center on one idea conveyed through narrative, with reserved time for audience questions. The conference will also include poster presentations where participants can showcase their ideas with a poster, slides, or through other multimedia. On the proposal form, please indicate either a preference for a particular format or your willingness that we accept your proposal in any of the formats and time constraints.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

We welcome and encourage presentation proposals from faculty, lawmakers, and practitioners engaged in a variety of disciplines and from schools and organizations around the world. On the [proposal form](#), we ask for a short description of fewer than 50 words (hard limit) for use in the conference program and a narrative description of your proposal for selection purposes (500 words maximum).

DEADLINES

To allow greater flexibility for those interested in [submitting a proposal](#), the Program Committee has established two submission deadlines:

- The Priority Deadline for submissions is December 13, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. The Program Committee will review all proposals received by this date by mid-January.
- The Committee will also consider proposals submitted by the Extended Deadline, February 7, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, and will review these proposals by the first week of March.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Program Committee will review the proposals and respond according to the submission date. Those who submitted proposals by the Priority Deadline (Dec. 13) will be notified by mid-February if their proposal has been accepted. Those who submitted their proposal by the Extended Deadline (Feb. 7), will be notified by late-March.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

All selected presenters will be expected to present in person. Additionally, presenters will be required to pay the conference registration fee and cover their own costs for travel and accommodations.

The 2025 conference will begin with a reception in the late afternoon of July 9, 2025, and there may be one or two sets of presentations beforehand. The next two days, July 10-11, 2025, will be devoted to a plenary session and presentations given in concurrent sessions.

LODGING

We have reserved blocks of hotel rooms close to the law school:

The Graduate Hotel (0.5 miles)

615 E Huron Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 USA

[The Graduate Booking Link](#)

The Bell Tower Hotel (0.4 miles)

300 S. Thayer Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

[The Bell Tower Booking Link](#)

The Hyatt Ann Arbor (2.3 miles)

3223 S. State Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48108

[The Hyatt Booking Link](#)

Free Hotel Shuttle Available

REGISTRATION

We will send out registration information early in 2025. We expect the conference registration fee to come in around \$450 (this cost covers lunches, a dinner, and administrative costs associated with hosting a conference). Updates will appear on [the LWI](#), [CLEA](#), and conference websites.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please feel free to contact any member of the conference planning committee:

[Aysha Ames](#), Fordham Law School

[Ted Becker](#), The University of Michigan Law School

[Jessica Lefort](#), The University of Michigan Law School

[Beth Wilensky](#), The University of Michigan Law School

[Gopal Balachandran](#), Penn State Law

[Sha-Shana Crichton](#), Howard University School of Law

[D'lorah Hughes](#), University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law

[Anne Ralph](#), Moritz College of Law - The Ohio State University

[Ruth Anne Robbins](#), Rutgers Law School

[Nantiya Ruan](#), UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law

[Bryan Schwartz](#), Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law - Arizona State University

[Cecilia Silver](#), Yale Law School

[Paige Snelgro](#), Sturm College of Law, University of Denver

[Kristen Tiscione](#), Georgetown Law School

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