

Teaching Legal Writing



A Conference for People who Teach in or
Administer Legal Writing Programs

August 15-16, 1984

University of Puget Sound
School of Law
Tacoma, Washington

About this Conference

Teaching Legal Writing is a conference for anyone interested in the new importance that legal writing has acquired in law school curriculums. The dialogue about changes in the way legal writing is perceived and taught began some years ago. A few law schools have since restructured their legal writing programs, while others are contemplating such changes or are looking for improved methods of teaching within existing legal writing programs.

This conference on teaching legal writing will provide the opportunity to continue the dialogue. Specifically, the conference will provide administrators with an opportunity to analyze models for legal writing programs; it will also provide both administrators and instructors with an opportunity to learn about methods and materials that are being used to teach legal writing.

During the two-day conference, participants will attend three addresses and three workshops given by nationally-known experts in the field of teaching writing, participate in three small-group workshops focusing on methods for teaching in the legal writing classroom, and attend a roundtable discussion in which participants share materials and information about their programs with other participants.

Registration Information

Because the conference is being funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the cost per participant is only \$30.00. This fee covers the costs of five meals and the materials packets that will be distributed to each participant.

To register, please complete the enclosed registration form and return it with your registration fee no later than June 1, 1984. *Please note that registration for the conference does not include registration for on-campus housing; if you decide to stay in campus housing, you should also send in the On-Campus Housing Registration Form.*

For additional information, please call Laurel Oates, Director of Legal Writing, or Chris Rideout, Writing Advisor, at (206) 756-3470.

Teaching Legal Writing

A Conference for Participants and Administrators of Legal Writing Programs

August 14-15, 1984
University of Washington
School of Law
Tacoma, Washington

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, August 15, 1984

8:00- 9:00	Breakfast
9:00-10:15	What You Should Know About Writing In Order To Teach Legal Writing — Presentation by Stephen Witte
10:30-12:00	Programs and Materials That Work Presentations by representatives from participating law schools
12:15- 2:00	Luncheon Learning the Law Is Not Learning Lawyering: Writing for Clients, Not Teachers — Presentation by Joseph Williams
2:15- 3:15	Workshops. See Workshop Topics below.
3:30- 4:30	Approaches to Teaching Conceptual Organization in Legal Writing — Workshop by Lynn Squires
6:00-	Picnic Dinner

Workshop Topics

Workshops are planned

- Using student conferences
- Evaluating student writing
- Teaching students to write
- Teaching oral advocacy
- Integrating writing and research
- Teaching style and organization
- Using peer collaboration
- Teaching research writing

Legal Writing

For People who Teach in or are in Writing Programs

August 15-16, 1984

Puget Sound
School of Law
Seattle, Washington

Agenda

Thursday, August 15, 1984

8:00- 9:00	Breakfast
9:00-10:15	Beyond the Sentence: What Else Influences Writing — Demonstration by Stephen Witte
10:30-11:45	Workshops: See Workshop Topics below.
12:00- 1:00	Luncheon Statutory Language: Ordinary Language — Presentation by Fred Bowers
1:00- 3:00	Dissecting Law To Hold Legal Writing Together — Demonstration by Joseph Williams
3:30- 4:30	Workshops: See Workshop Topics below.
5:00- 5:30	Reception

Topics

allowing topics to be
addressed effectively

persuasively

alternative law courses

5

Major Consultants

Fred Bowers

Fred Bowers is a professor of English at the University of British Columbia. He has just finished a book, *Linguistic Aspects of Legislative Expression*, and has also published articles on the development of legal drafting in Britain and on judicial interpretation. He has also been an "ordinary language consultant" with a number of law firms, including Ladner, Dovers, Russell, Demondain, and Johnston Associates.

Lynn Squires

Lynn Squires is the co-author of the textbook *Legal Writing in a Nutshell* and of several law review articles on plain English drafting. She sits on the Washington State Law Revision Commission and has offered expert testimony on the plain English construction of legal documents. She has consulted with several law firms, including Perkins, Coie, Stone, Oken and Williams, and with the Washington State Bar Association, the Seattle-King County Bar Association, and the Judicial Conference for Washington State Courts. In addition, she has offered seminars for the American Association of Law Schools and the Washington Legal Assistants Association.

Joseph Williams

Joseph Williams is a Professor of English and Linguistics at the University of Chicago. He is also on the visiting faculty at the National Judicial College and is a partner in the Clearinghouse Consulting Group. Professor Williams wrote the very successful textbook on professional writing, *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace*. He has served as a writing consultant to numerous law firms, including Baker and McKenzie, Morgan, Lewis, and Bockius, and Vinson and Elkins. He has also been a writing consultant to the legal divisions of several national corporations, including IBM, GTE, Shell Oil, and the Bank of America, and to governmental agencies such as the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture.

Stephen Witte

Stephen Witte is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the co-author of *Evaluating College Writing Programs* and of the forthcoming *Literacy and Writing Assessment and Holistic Assessment: Issues in Theory and Practice*. Professor Witte is also an editor of the journal *Written Communication*. He has published numerous essays on research into writing and writing program evaluation.

Sponsorship

This conference is funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and is sponsored by the University of Puget Sound School of Law and the Pacific Northwest Writing Consortium.

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