



From the editors....

This issue of *The Second Draft* is an informational issue sandwiched between last fall's forum on IRAC and next fall's issue that will set forth summaries of the presentations at the July Conference of the Legal Writing Institute. We would appreciate receiving a submission about each session, so that those who were unable to attend particular sessions or the Conference as a whole can get a sense of the breadth and depth of the presentations. Please send us one summary of 750 words or fewer for each session, whether it be an individual or a group presentation. The deadline for submissions is October 1, 1996.

The Spring 1997 issue will present your views on the question: "What should be the central goals of a legal research and writing program?" This question came up in connection with a recent discussion on the Legal Writing List about curriculum design. Good curriculum design obviously depends on a clear vision of the goals of the program; therefore, we want to provide a forum for an exchange of ideas on this topic.

Joan Blum, Jane Gionfriddo, Francine Sherman
Boston College Law School
885 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02159

news

Legal Writing Directors' Conference

The Legal Writing Directors' Conference that was held in July 1995 in San Diego inspired the formation of a formal organization for directors of legal writing. In April, the group voted on by-laws; during May, the group is electing officers. Simultaneously, a subcommittee is planning the first business meeting of the new organization. The business meeting is scheduled for July 17, the day before the seventh biennial Legal Writing Conference begins, in Seattle. For more information,

please call Bari Burke, University of Montana School of Law
(bari@selway.umt.edu or 406 243-4252).

Legal Writing Institute to Hold Conference July 18-20 in Seattle, Washington

The Legal Writing Institute will hold its seventh biennial conference on July 18, 19, and 20, 1996, at the Seattle University campus in Seattle, Washington. Three hundred people from law schools in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Russia are expected to attend.

The theme of the three-day conference is Learning from the Disciplines. On Thursday morning, the conference will have as its focus learning theory; on Thursday afternoon, Logic and Rhetoric; and on Friday morning, Composition Theory. On Friday afternoon and Saturday a number of sessions will be offered, including sessions for new faculty, directors, and those involved in academic support programs. In addition, there will be special sessions on plagiarism and learning disabilities.

The conference will also offer a number of opportunities for participants to meet in small groups and informally to discuss their programs or their special interests. Among the social events that are scheduled are a reception on Wednesday evening, a picnic and talent show on Thursday evening, and a dinner cruise on Friday evening. Housing is available in on-campus dorms or in nearby Seattle hotels.

If you have not yet received a conference brochure, you may obtain one by contacting the conference chair, Laurel Oates, at Seattle University School of Law. The phone number is (206) 591-2233, and the email address is loates@SeattleU.edu. Because space is limited, those interested in attending the conference are urged to register as soon as possible.

Summer Conference Probes Plagiarism July 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

More than 150 survey responses to the Institute's questions have been compiled--and the results are a warning to all law schools.

Please plan to remain in Seattle the afternoon of Saturday, July 20 for a session on plagiarism policies that will conclude the summer conference. Learn how your school's policy stacks up next to others. The Plagiarism Committee will hand out suggested changes and wordings for policies that address the problems of the 90s.

Open discussion will follow hypotheticals taken from reported (but anonymous) cases this year.

Internet Discussion Group

To subscribe to the legal writing discussion group, send a message to Listserv@STMP {listserv@chicagokent.kentlaw.edu}. In the body of the message write "subscribe LEGALWRIT-L (YOUR NAME) (YOUR SCHOOL)." Don't include the quotation marks and on the line Subj: just write Legalwrit-L.

Legal Writing Problems Available on the Internet

Most legal writing instructors are required to create "problems" in the form of hypothetical fact patterns that present legal questions. In an effort to allow us to share with each other the problems we create, the Legal Writing Program of the Villanova University School of Law has established ProbNet, a computerized repository for legal writing problems.

ProbNet is accessible over the Internet's World Wide Web. Each problem includes an "answer" in the form of a bench memo, sample memo, or outline, or, at the very least, a list of relevant authorities. Because you need a password to use it, ProbNet is secure from students.

To receive a ProbNet password, please send us a legal writing problem and an "answer." At the beginning of your problem, please also include the following information:

1. Type of assignment (e.g. appellate brief, memo, etc.).
2. Page Limitations on Students' Work.
3. General Subject Area (e.g. Torts, Criminal, etc.).
4. Date Problem Distributed to Students.
5. Creator of Problem, with address and telephone number.

Compile your problem, the answer, and the above information into one computer file. Please send us the file on a 3.25" computer disk. You may use Word Perfect (any version), Microsoft Word (6.0 or earlier), or ASCII format. When we receive your disk, we will post your problem on ProbNet and send you a password. We will also send you instructions on how to use ProbNet.

Send the computer file to Brett Amdur, Legal Writing Instructor, Villanova University Law School, Villanova, PA 19085-1682. If you plan to attend the Legal Writing Institute conference in Seattle this summer, you may give us your ProbNet problem then. If you have any questions, please contact us at 610-519-7136 or amdur@law.vill.edu.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editors:

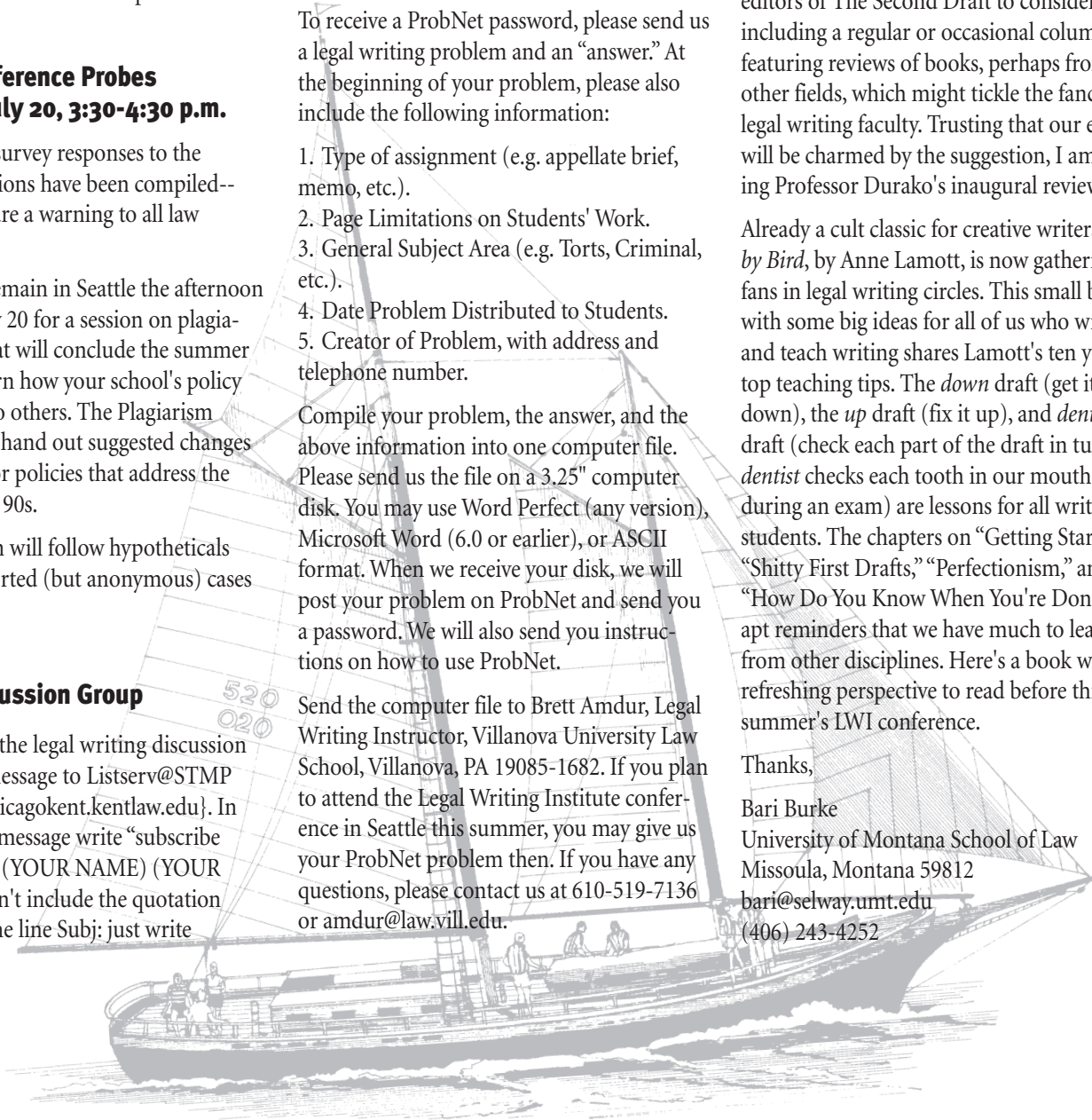
As I was going about my regular business three weeks ago, I chanced to speak with Professor Jo Anne Durako from Villanova Law School. She mentioned a book that had recently kept her company and entertained her as she suffered through a cold. Something in her description moved me sufficiently to stop at my local bookstore that very day. As promised, *Bird by Bird* utterly engaged me and my legal writing imagination. "My," I said to myself, "what luck to find this book. Thank you, Jo Anne."

Rather than relying on the fates to reveal the weekend reading of my colleagues, I ask the editors of *The Second Draft* to consider including a regular or occasional column featuring reviews of books, perhaps from other fields, which might tickle the fancy of legal writing faculty. Trusting that our editors will be charmed by the suggestion, I am offering Professor Durako's inaugural review.

Already a cult classic for creative writers, *Bird by Bird*, by Anne Lamott, is now gathering fans in legal writing circles. This small book with some big ideas for all of us who write and teach writing shares Lamott's ten years of top teaching tips. The *down draft* (get it down), the *up draft* (fix it up), and *dental draft* (check each part of the draft in turn as a *dentist* checks each tooth in our mouths during an exam) are lessons for all writing students. The chapters on "Getting Started," "Shitty First Drafts," "Perfectionism," and "How Do You Know When You're Done?" are apt reminders that we have much to learn from other disciplines. Here's a book with a refreshing perspective to read before this summer's LWI conference.

Thanks,

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(406) 243-4252



Legal Writing Institute Committees 1994-1996

The following is a list of the committees of the Legal Writing Institute and their chairs for 1994-1996. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact the chair.

Accreditation and Academic Standards
Richard Neumann, Hofstra, chair

Plagiarism
Terri LeClercq, University of Texas,
chair

Mentoring
Susan McClellan, Seattle University,
co-chair
Jenny Zavatsky, Seattle University,
co-chair

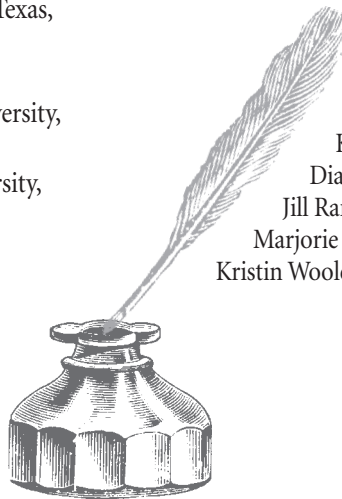
Newsletter
Joan Blum, co-editor
Jane Gionfriddo, co-editor
Francine Sherman, co-editor

Regional Conferences (the following people have agreed to be contact people for regional conferences)

Laurel Oates, Seattle University, general contact
Philip Genty, Columbia, Northeast
Helene Shapo, Northwestern, Upper Midwest

Editorial Board, Journal

Chris Rideout, editor in-chief
Rebecca White Berch
Susan Brody
Anne Enquist
George Gopen
Katy Mercer
Diana Pratt
Jill Ramsfield
Marjorie Rombauer
Kristin Woolever



The following is a list of Legal Writing Institute Board Committees for 1994 - 1996:

Executive Committee

Anne Enquist
George Gopen
Steve Jamar
Laurel Oates
Chris Rideout

Elections

Chris Wren, chair
Katy Mercer

Program Committee for 1996 Conference

Laurel Oates, chair
Steve Jamar
Chris Kunz
Terri LeClercq
Helene Shapo
Chris Wren

Conference Policies and Procedures

Anne Enquist, chair
Diana Pratt



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