



LegalWriting
institute

Call for Proposals:

18th Biennial Conference

"Back to School"

July 11-14, 2018

Marquette University School of Law

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Proposals Due: 11:59 p.m. (CST) Monday, June 12, 2017

Please join us for the 2018 Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, where colleagues will have the opportunity to meet, reconnect, and share ideas about teaching, scholarship, professional growth, social justice, and professional advocacy.

Our 2018 conference theme is *"Back to School."* This theme serves a dual purpose. It captures our excitement about the conference returning to a law school setting for the first time in a decade. It also represents that moment of anticipation and transition when students return to school at the beginning of a new year to reflect, set new goals, and commit to achieve them.

While we hope to inspire you with the *"Back to School"* conference theme, the Program Committee welcomes proposals on *any* subject of interest to the legal writing community. Relatedly, the committee believes that a rich and compelling program showcases a variety of voices. With that in mind, we especially encourage submissions from those who are new to our community or who may not often present at this Biennial or other conferences. At the end of the Call for Proposals is information about mentoring available to those who would like guidance on preparing a proposal, presenting, or both.

Basic Proposal Information

All proposals must be submitted using an online submission form available [here](#). To submit a proposal, you will need to create a log-on and password. When you submit the proposal, the submission program will prompt you to include the following information. Additional information about submitting a proposal is addressed below.

- 1- Name, email address, and affiliation for each presenter/moderator;
- 2- 50-word biography for each presenter/moderator;
- 3- Title of the presentation;
- 4- Type of presentation;
- 5- 200-word summary of proposal; and
- 6- Anticipated technology needs.

Limit on Number of Proposals

You may submit no more than two presentation proposals. You do not need to rank your proposals in order of preference. If, however, you are selected for more than one presentation or panel, you may be asked to select the presentation or panel in which you would like to participate. This approach gives the Program Committee as well as presenters more flexibility in planning the conference program.

Selection Notification

You will be notified about the status of your proposal(s) on or before September 29, 2017. If your presentation is selected, we will ask that you provide a photograph of yourself to accompany your biography on the conference app.

Presenters/Panelists

If you submit a proposal with more than one presenter for your session, please also submit the names of any co-presenter(s) and, if relevant, moderator(s). In determining how many presenters or panelists to include, please make sure that each person will have sufficient time to fully discuss his or her topic. For example, the committee recommends having no more than three presenters in a 45-minute presentation.

A few notes about submitting the names of co-presenters. To add a co-presenter, click on the "Add Co-Author" button during the submission process. You will then be prompted to provide co-presenters' names and email addresses. Please also provide their affiliation in the space for "company." The submission system limits you to three co-presenters. If there are additional co-presenters, please list them in the "Biography/ies" field on the main submission page. Please provide 50-word biographies for all presenters/moderators.

Proposal Description

We ask that you submit a 200-word description of your proposal. If you believe that more information would aid the committee in its decision-making, you may upload a file containing the additional information.

Presentation Topics

The committee seeks a mix of presentations, including but not limited to presentations that address topics of specific interest to new, mid-level, and veteran members of the field. The topics could relate to any facet of teaching or scholarship, including:

- applied legal storytelling;
- cognition and other education-related areas;
- compliance with ABA standards,
- composition and public speaking;
- cultural competency;
- fieldwork or interdisciplinary work;
- global legal skills;
- perspectives of marginalized groups;
- professional identity development, both for professors and for students;
- rhetorical theory relating to all aspects of legal communication;
- social-justice issues;
- teaching through alternative media; and
- any other relevant topic.

Additionally, the committee will consider proposals to present research or works in progress at any stage, from well-researched brainstorming to near-finished projects. The committee also welcomes presentations on topics of interest to those engaged in scholarship or new to scholarship, such as how to conduct specialized empirical or ethnographic research, statistical analysis, how to find and interpret unusual primary sources, how to collaborate with professors in other fields, and how to publish nontraditional writing projects.

Presentation Format

Below are descriptions of the various presentation formats. Please keep in mind that the committee may ask presenters to change the format or timing of a presentation to fit the needs of the conference program. This could include asking those who submit proposals for individual presentations if they are willing to consider forming a panel with others who have submitted proposals on a related topic. It may also include asking those who submitted proposals for lecture or interactive presentations to do a poster presentation instead.

- **Lecture/Interactive Presentations (45-minute presentations)**

This presentation is a traditional lecture with Q&A at the end, and an interactive presentation is one that seeks more audience participation throughout. If you are considering an interactive presentation, your proposal should include what you plan to do to make the presentation interactive as well as how much time the interactive activity will take, from explanation through activity through debriefing. Examples of interactive presentations include, but are not limited to, pair and share, break-out group discussions, use of demonstrative aids that involve the audience, or other vehicles for audience participation. Handouts, although very beneficial for attendees, do not, on their own, make the presentation interactive. Whether a lecture or interactive presentation, presenters should allocate sufficient time for questions.

- **Panel Presentations (45-minute or 75-minute presentations)**

Although the majority of panel presentations will be forty-five minutes, the committee will set aside a few 75-minute time slots. If you are interested in a 75-minute panel presentation, your proposal should explain why 75 minutes is necessary.

You should designate a moderator in your proposal for a panel presentation. The moderator may or may not be a panelist and should ensure (1) equal time for each panelist to speak and (2) sufficient time for Q&A. If your proposal does not name a moderator and your proposal is accepted, the program committee will ask you to select a moderator.

- **Scholarly Research or Works in Progress (45-minute presentations/discussions)**

The committee welcomes presentations that will focus on recent scholarly work or works in progress in a group discussion format. This could include everything from well-researched brainstorming to near-finished projects. These sessions operate to foster discussion about scholarship in our community or related to our community. If relevant, readings will be distributed before the conference so that more of the session may be devoted to conversation. The Program Committee recognizes the difficulty of knowing now what scholarly projects you might have underway in the summer of 2018. Given this, the committee anticipates putting out a second, more focused Call for Proposals for scholarly research and works in progress closer to the conference date. This should not, however, dissuade anyone from submitting a proposal now for a presentation in this category.

- **Coffee or Popcorn Sessions**

These more informal gatherings will take place early in the morning or later in the evening and are specifically designed for high audience participation. They are often used for hot-topic dialogues or debates in our community but could be used for other topics as well. We welcome proposals for informal, small-group discussions of books, articles, topics, issues, or controversies of interest to the community. We especially encourage creativity in proposals for this category. As with the Scholarly Research or Works in Progress category above, we anticipate that a second Call for Proposals closer in time to the conference may also seek submissions for this category.

- **Poster Presentations**

Posters will once again be spotlighted at the conference. While the program schedule will include a designated slot when presenters will discuss their posters, the posters will also be available for viewing (without presenters) for the entirety of the conference. Submitters are not required to submit the actual poster with the proposal, but are welcome to do so if a mock-up is available in an electronic format. Please do submit, however, a description of the idea that you are presenting in your poster (no more than 200 words). Once a poster presentation proposal is accepted, the Poster Sub-Committee for the conference will provide sample posters and other details specific to poster presentations such as size limits. All posters will be displayed on tack boards supplied by LWI.

- **Idea Bank Live Presentations**

The Program Committee will also select some “Idea Bank Live” presentations. These are 20–minute presentations that typically focus on specific teaching techniques and classroom exercises.

Technology

Please include your technology requirements as best as you can anticipate them. Keep in mind that some technology may be limited in certain law school spaces. The committee does not make program-selection decisions based on the technology needs of presenters, but such information is essential when planning the conference.

Marketing Prohibited

Although the committee welcomes proposals on any topic of interest to legal-writing faculty, a proposal will not be accepted if it appears to be a means to market a textbook or other for-pay product.

Mentors for Submissions and Presentations

If you are a first-time submitter or presenter and would like to talk through the process with a veteran, please contact Program Committee Members: Katrina June Lee (Ohio State), katrinalee@osu.edu, or Emily Zimmerman (Drexel), ebz23@drexel.edu.

Questions about Proposals and Submission

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Program Committee Co-Chairs: Erin Carroll (Georgetown), ecc66@georgetown.edu, or Wendy-Adele Humphrey (Texas Tech), wendy.humphrey@ttu.edu. If you have any questions regarding technical problems when submitting a proposal, please call Cvent customer care at 1-866-318-4357 (Option 1 and then Option 7).