



LegalWriting  
institute

Dear colleagues,

The Board of Directors of the Legal Writing Institute is delighted to announce that **Helena Whalen-Bridge** is the 2019 recipient of the **Teresa Godwin Phelps Award for Scholarship in Legal Communication.**



Helena Whalen-Bridge is an Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law. She holds a B.A. (University of Connecticut, 1981), J.D. (University of Connecticut, 1985), and LL.M. (National University of Singapore, 2002). After acting as In-House Counsel in Japan and Singapore, Helena joined the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law. She ran the first-year Legal Skills Programme from 2003-2009 and now teaches advanced and graduate skills courses. She has also been seconded to teach as Faculty in Residence at the Center for Transnational Legal Studies in London.

Associate Professor Whalen-Bridge's research interests include legal narrative, legal ethics and access to justice, and legal education and comparative legal skills. She has published on Singapore pro bono (*Asian Journal of Comparative Law* 2014) and non-profit pro bono (*Legal Ethics* 2010), the connection between ethics and legal narrative (*Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors* 2010 and *Legal Ethics* 2019), and global legal skills (*Journal of International Law in Context*, 2014).

The Phelps Award honors and draws attention to individual works of outstanding scholarship specific to the legal writing discipline that are published in any given calendar year. The award is meant to set aspirational standards for others writing in the field. In making the award, the Selection Committee and the LWI Board focus solely on whether an individual work is specific to the discipline of legal writing and on whether it makes an outstanding contribution to the discipline.

The Selection Committee unanimously recommended Associate Professor Whalen-Bridge for her article titled, [\*Negative Narrative: Reconsidering Client Portrayals\*](#), 16 LEGAL COMM. & RHETORIC: JALWD, 151 (2019). As one nominator wrote:

Helena makes a strong case for expanding lawyers' range of narrative choices when confronted with a client who is not easily portrayed positively. . . . [T]his article brings to light . . . that we have more choices for creating a narrative than simply making our client the "good guy." This dose of reality is sorely needed for law students and practitioners, and Helena does an excellent job writing an article that can appeal to both. I think this article is particularly timely in our current "post-fact" reality. . . . This article will, I believe, lead to more work on the idea of how to tell the stories we may not want to.

The LWI Board is grateful for the work of the selection committee in identifying nominees and making recommendations to the Board. The Committee includes Chair Lisa A. Eichhorn, Mary Beth Beazley, Sha-Shana Crichton, Brad Desnoyer, Lucy Jewel, and Teri McMurtry-Chubb.

Please join me in sending your congratulations directly to Associate Professor Whalen-Bridge at [lawhwb@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lawhwb@nus.edu.sg).

Sincerely,

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President, Legal Writing Institute (2018-20)



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