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**2021 LWI Awards Call**

Exciting news this year! The LWI Awards Committee will be sending out ONE combined call at the beginning of the academic year with ONE due date. We are hoping that this will not only minimize the clutter in everyone’s email inboxes but that it will also encourage more of you to nominate some of your fantastic colleagues (or those persons outside of the Legal Writing academy, as appropriate). Also, the Committee will be considering nominations from the prior year with the permission of the respective nominator(s).[[1]](#footnote-1)

Below is listed each of the awards and short descriptions for your information.

**The Golden Pen Award**

LWI created the Golden Pen Award to recognize individuals or organizations for significantly advancing the cause of professional legal writing. Anyone who has made an extraordinary contribution to improving legal writing may be nominated for the Golden Pen. The contribution may take any form, such as promoting the use of clear language in public documents; engaging in outstanding scholarship or journalism about legal writing or in exceptional writing for law practice; improving the quality of legal writing instruction; or advocating for better writing within the legal community. The award is usually given to someone who is not an active LWI member, but an active member may be considered in exceptional circumstances. Find more information about the award [here](https://www.lwionline.org/awards/golden-pen-award).

**The Deborah Hecht Memorial Writing Award**

The Deborah Hecht Memorial Writing Award honors the life of our colleague, Deborah Hecht. The award is given to the writing specialist who writes the best article for The Second Draft during a two-year period. The award is presented during the LWI Biennial Conference. Find more information about the award [here](https://www.lwionline.org/awards/deborah-hecht-memorial-writing-award).

**The Courage Award**

Terri LeClercq created the Courage Award to honor “courage writ large” concerning legal writing. Through the award, LWI seeks to honor a member who has demonstrated courage by doing, despite fear, something that most people would not do. Find more information about the award [here](https://www.lwionline.org/awards/terri-leclerq-courage-award).

**The Mary S. Lawrence Award**

The Mary S. Lawrence Award recognizes an individual from the legal writing community for a combination of pioneering scholarship and innovative curriculum or program design. Find more information about the award [here](https://www.lwionline.org/awards/mary-lawrence-award).

**The Emerging Scholar Award**

This new award (created in 2019) recognizes emerging scholars in our discipline to foster a new generation of scholars while recognizing the rich diversity of our community. Unlike the Phelps Award, [[2]](#footnote-2) this award is limited to a professor’s first or second full-length, published article on legal writing doctrine or pedagogy. Find more information about the award [here](https://www.lwionline.org/emerging-scholar).

**Influential Teaching Award**

This new award (created in 2019) recognizes outstanding teachers who have influenced the teaching of legal writing beyond their individual classrooms. With this award, we acknowledge our continued commitment to excellence in teaching and advances in legal writing pedagogy. This is not a lifetime achievement award. Find more information about the award [here](https://www.lwionline.org/influential-teaching-award).

The committee reminds everyone of LWI’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and we hope that these noted changes give you all, as nominators, sufficient time to identify a deep and diverse pools of nominees. We especially encourage the nominations of women, people of color, and members of other traditionally under-represented groups. We encourage you to begin thinking about some worthy person to nominate right now! We will send out reminders as the due date approaches, but please mark your calendars today. All nominations are due on Friday, January 14, 2022.

The most helpful nominations are around 500 words. The nominations should go beyond reiterating information on the nominee’s website or CV by specifically showing how the person’s work fulfills the goal of the award. Also, your nomination should include the name of the award for which the nomination is written. Members of the LWI Board of Directors and the LWI Awards Committee are ineligible for nomination until at least one year after completing their service. If you have any questions, feel free to contact a committee member.

Brenda Gibson (chair) (Wake Forest)

Andrew Carter (Arizona State)

Janet Dickson (Seattle)

Kathryn Mercer (Case Western)

Samantha Moppett (Suffolk)

Dyane O’Leary (Suffolk)

Suzanne Rowe (Oregon)

Mark Wojcik (UIC-John Marshall)

1. The Awards Committee will contact previous nominators to determine if they would like to have their nominations from the prior year considered this year. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Phelps Award nomination process is managed by the LWI Board. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)