



LegalWriting  
institute



## Call for Proposals

**22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference**  
**July 15–18, 2026**

University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN

**Proposals Due (Primary Deadline<sup>1</sup>):**  
**11:59 p.m. (EDT) Monday, September 1, 2025**

Please join us for the 2026 Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, where colleagues will have the opportunity to meet, reconnect, and share ideas about research, scholarship, teaching, and professional growth.

The theme for the 2026 conference is “LWI Assemble,” a **reference** we believe many of you will appreciate (that bolded word is linked). Those who dedicate their professional lives to studying, teaching, and practicing legal communication are a diverse group of superhero types: sage mentors to peers and new members, committed educators of our students, transformative magicians of the discipline itself, and warriors for equity, the rule of law, and legal methods. And, just as superheroes assemble to tackle the world’s great threats, the Legal Writing Institute calls upon legal writing professionals to unite and address the challenges we face in today’s world of legal writing and about the teaching of legal writing. We hope to inspire you with the “LWI Assemble” theme, but the Program Committee invites proposals on *any* topics of interest to the legal writing community. While we will be reading for theme, we expect to read proposals of many types.

The conference theme:

- emphasizes collaboration and support in teaching, scholarship, and service;
- calls on us to impart our existing knowledge to new members in the field;
- focuses on innovation in its many forms;
- acknowledges the importance of new and updated technologies;
- prizes our expertise, adaptability, and resilience in our changing world; and
- celebrates the collective power of legal educators and practitioners to analyze, to use for the common good, and to improve legal communication standards and practices.

---

<sup>1</sup> Every type of proposal should be received by this deadline, with one exception: Scholarship Works in Progress. As explained below, WIPs will be evaluated on a rolling basis after the September general deadline and we will be sending out a second Call for Proposals exclusively for WIPs in February 2026.



If you are new to the legal writing community or to giving conference presentations, a mentor from the Program Committee can assist you. If you would like to request assistance, our contact info is provided below.

## Spotlighted Need for Certain Topic Types

The Program Committee reiterates that this conference welcomes proposals on any number of topics related to legal communication, broadly defined. Please send in your innovative, creative, thought-provoking ideas!

While all topic proposals are welcome, and will be considered, the Program Committee is spotlighting the need for more presentations of two types:

- **Evergreen Presentations.** An Evergreen presentation helps newer members with foundational topics that more experienced professors have learned along the way. Think back to transformative presentations you attended in the first several years of your LWI conference-going—things that made you a better teacher for your students, a more informed reader of our disciplinary scholarship, or a more engaged member of the academic community in general. Can you pass that information forward? We see these Evergreen Presentations as likely occurring in a panel setting, but there's no rule about that.
- **Scholarly Presentations.** During the past several conferences, we saw many panel presentations discussing the ideals of discipline building, but fewer presentations discussing a scholarly endeavor that actively and substantively built our discipline. We would all like to learn some new things! Please talk about your work in the area, whether it is recently published, a work in progress, or a proposal to discuss an article that has made a difference to your work. You may choose any of the program formats to discuss scholarship.

## Presentation Formats

For the 2026 Biennial, we are accepting proposals for the following formats:

- **Poster Presentation.** A poster presentation has two parts: (1) a poster that can be displayed on its own, and (2) a 5–10-minute talk about the poster's contents. Conference posters will be on display for the entire conference. There will also be a designated time when presenters sit or stand by their posters and discuss them. LWI will supply tack boards to display posters. Here are [some tips](#) on poster presentations (that's a linked phrase). The Program Committee will work with poster presenters on size limits and other technical requirements.
- **Flash Presentation (20 minutes).** Some of these were previously known as “Idea Bank Live” presentations, which focused on pedagogy, but Flash presentations can also be scholarly in nature. These shorter presentations cover a single, focused idea. For example, a presenter could describe a teaching idea or practice, talk about something in the news that relates to legal writing, challenge a legal writing convention, or float a new scholarly idea. Think of this type of presentation as a **TED Talk** (that's a linked phrase).



Presenters can lecture or mix a lecture with audience interaction and Q&A. Keep in mind that two of these talks will be slotted for the same 45-minute time slot, so please keep your associated media to a minimum and time yourself very carefully when you rehearse. Typically, a “real” presentation goes 20% longer than a rehearsed one.

- **Lecture Presentation (45 minutes).** This presentation format looks something like a teaching session and might be structured as a lecture plus Q&A at the end, or as a mix of lecture and audience participation throughout (that’s up to you as you get closer to the actual presentation). Your description should include mentions of the supporting scholarly materials you rely upon for the proposal. We don’t need to see a full bibliography, but we want to understand the scholarly anchor for the presentation. In other words, we expect these presentations to have a grounding in researched literature.
- **Panel Presentation (45 minutes).** Panels involve more than 2 people and focus on a specific topic. Panel styles range from free-flowing discussion to discrete, timed presentations by each panelist. Each panel must have a moderator, identified in the proposal, who may or may not simultaneously participate as a panelist. The moderator ensures equal time for each panelist and moderates the Q&A. Panel topics can include teaching, service, and scholarship (including “half-baked” scholarship ideas). Get creative!
- **Panel Presentation or Discussion Group (75 minutes).** We will have a limited number of 75-minute panel presentations. These panels will involve a topic likely to generate more discussion. We envision that at least 30 of these minutes will be dedicated to conversation with the audience (and panelists with each other). Just as with the 45-minute panels, these proposals must name a moderator who may or may not also participate as a panelist. The moderator ensures equal time for each panelist, enforces the requirement for 30 minutes of open conversation, and moderates the discussion. Alternatively, you may choose to run these in a discussion group format, which simply means more discussion than presentation. Panel topics can include teaching, service, and scholarship (including “half-baked” scholarship ideas). Get creative!
- **Scholarship Works in Progress or “WIPs” (45 minutes) (second CFP will go out in February of 2026).** These sessions foster discussion about scholarship related to our community and help scholars improve their works in progress, which can include everything from well-researched brainstorming to near-finished projects. At the beginning of each scholarship workshop, the presenter(s) will describe a work in progress for about 10 minutes. **Assigned readers** will then offer commentary. To propose one of these WIPs you may, but need not, find your own assigned readers—the Program Committee can help with that process. Assigned readers may range from experienced people in the field to newer members who wish to experience this important aspect of scholarly dialogue. Choose this format if you have a WIP that could benefit from a 45-minute discussion and an assigned reader. Other scholarly topics can and should be included in any of the other formats.



The Program Committee recognizes that it's hard to know now what scholarly projects you might have underway in the summer of 2026. We will therefore send a **second Call for Proposals for works in progress in February, with a March deadline**. The second call should not, however, dissuade anyone from submitting a proposal now for a presentation in this category.

- **LWI Committee Presentations (separate ask will go out).** We will come to you and ask if/what your committee would like to present. Please keep in mind that as in biennials past, we will likely ask many committees to present with a poster. That has been a very successful medium for these things.

## Limit on Number of Presentations and Proposals

**Presentation limitation:** To maximize the number of people who can present at the conference, you will be limited to one presentation from any of these formats: Poster Presentation, Flash Presentation, Lecture Presentation Panel Presentation (either length).

**There are two exceptions to the one-presenter rule:** First, LWI committee-sponsored presentations will be considered separately in a different CFP, and will not “count” toward the presentation limit. Second, WIP proposals do not count toward this limit, although if we receive more than the slots we have reserved, we may prioritize WIP presenters who are not already speakers at the conference.

So, for example, a person might present on a panel (just to pick one of the formats), present a WIP, and appear as part of an LWI committee presentation.

**Proposal limitation:** Although your presentations at the conference will be limited, you can be listed as a presenter, panelist, or moderator for up to **three** proposals. You do not need to rank your proposals in order of preference. If more than two of your presentations are selected for the conference program, you will be asked to choose.

## Proposal Information to Include

Your proposal will be submitted online. Some of this information is required for the Program Committee's review, some is required to create the program, and some is required to ensure compliance with the presentation limits. We will be asking for:

1. A name, title, email, and institutional affiliation for each designated presenter, panelist, and moderator.
2. The title of your presentation.
3. A 200-character-max description of your presentation's objective, written as a pitch to market your talk to conference attendees. This description will be copied into the conference program. Here are some examples:
  - a. “This presentation will walk the audience through a ‘one-pager’ used for legislative advocacy and will then compare that to litigation documents.”



- b. “Students should be convinced to read citations as they are learning how to create them, themselves. This presentation will explain why, and how.”
  - c. “This is a scholarship-based presentation focusing on a novel aspect of Abyssinian rhetoric and its translation into key aspects of modern legal communication. I am at the draft stage and welcome ideas for further development.”
  - d. “An ‘Evergreen’ panel discussion about the creation of case files and why you might also re-use them.”
  - e. “An ‘Evergreen’ panel discussion of how to live-critique drafts and the benefits to students (and faculty) for doing so.”
  - f. “A scholarly conversation debating the notion that, in legal advocacy, metaphor may be more effective than narrative. This topic is more timely than you may realize.”
4. A brief description of your presentation for the Program Committee’s consideration that includes what kind of interaction, if any, your audience should expect. This description is limited to 1,000 characters. If relevant, this description should reference supporting scholarly materials.
  5. Your preferred presentation format, from the above-listed format options, and alternate formats you would consider.
  6. We assume that you may need technology—the presentations take place in a classroom so plan accordingly. If you need something beyond basic projection/internet capability please let us know.

The Program Committee will separately send a call for presentations or posters to LWI committee chairs to determine those committees’ presentation needs. If you are an LWI committee chair, you do not need to submit a proposal for your committee during this process. We will come to you.

## How to Submit Your Proposal

All proposals must be submitted using an online submission form available [here](#).

If you submit a proposal with more than one presenter for your session, please also submit the names of any co-presenters and, if relevant, moderators. In determining how many presenters to include, please make sure that each person will have sufficient time to fully discuss their topic. If you have more co-presenters than the form permits, please contact the Program Committee Co-Chairs after you submit the form. (The form allows for a presenter and nine additional co-presenters. We don’t anticipate anyone will need more than that!)

## Selection Notification

The Program Committee will notify you regarding the selections no later than early December 2025. If your proposal is selected, we will ask you to provide a photo and a biography for the conference program.



## Marketing Prohibited

Although the Program Committee welcomes proposals on any topic of interest to faculty who teach legal writing, 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 an experienced presenter, please contact one of the Program Committee members.

## Questions about Proposals and Submission

For questions, please contact both Program Committee Co-Chairs:

- Ruth Anne Robbins: **[Ruth.Anne.Robbins@rutgers.edu](mailto:Ruth.Anne.Robbins@rutgers.edu)**
- David Ziff: **[dziff@uw.edu](mailto:dziff@uw.edu)**

## Program Committee

Ruth Anne Robbins (co-chair)

David Ziff (co-chair)

Margie Alsbrook

Katy Boling (Kathryn)

Alexa Chew

Jim Dimitri (James D.)

Amy Griffin

Alison Julien

Derek Kiernan-Johnson

Eugene Kim

Marissa Meredith

Linda Tam

Andrele St. Val

[Ruth.Anne.Robbins@rutgers.edu](mailto:Ruth.Anne.Robbins@rutgers.edu)

[dziff@uw.edu](mailto:dziff@uw.edu)

[alsbrook\\_m@law.mercer.edu](mailto:alsbrook_m@law.mercer.edu)

[kboling@seattleu.edu](mailto:kboling@seattleu.edu)

[achew@email.unc.edu](mailto:achew@email.unc.edu)

[jddimitr@iu.edu](mailto:jddimitr@iu.edu)

[amy.griffin@georgetown.edu](mailto:amy.griffin@georgetown.edu)

[alison.julien@marquette.edu](mailto:alison.julien@marquette.edu)

[derek.kiernan-johnson@colorado.edu](mailto:derek.kiernan-johnson@colorado.edu)

[eykim@usfca.edu](mailto:eykim@usfca.edu)

[meredithm1@duq.edu](mailto:meredithm1@duq.edu)

[ltam@berkeley.edu](mailto:ltam@berkeley.edu)

[astval@pitt.edu](mailto:astval@pitt.edu)

