



# Conference Program

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**Hosted by**

**The University of Baltimore  
School of Law**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the University of Baltimore School of Law.

We are pleased to host you for the 2026 Capital Area Legal Writing Conference and to welcome you to Baltimore, Maryland, for this important gathering of legal writing faculty.

This year's theme, *Legal Writing in Transition: Teaching for a Changing Profession*, reflects the dynamic moment we are all navigating together. As the legal profession evolves, shaped by rapid technological advancements, including generative AI, and shifting student expectations, legal writing faculty are thoughtfully reexamining how we teach, what we teach, and, importantly, why we teach. Your work sits at the center of that conversation.

We hope that your time together will be enriched by meaningful collaboration, shared insights, and renewed connection with colleagues who are equally committed to excellence in legal education.

Thank you for the work each of you is doing to advance legal education and, in particular, legal writing, which remains a cornerstone of our profession and is essential to preparing exceptional attorneys.

Finally, congratulations to the conference planners and executive committee for bringing this important program together.

We are delighted to have you with us and hope you enjoy both the conference and your time exploring Baltimore—and nearby Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,



LaVonda N. Reed  
Dean  
University of Baltimore School of Law

## Thanks to Our Sponsors:



# Conference Schedule



Day

1

Thursday, May 28

**12:15–12:45 PM**      **Arrival and Registration**

**1:00–1:15 PM**      **Conference Kickoff and Welcome, Room 408**

**1:20–2:15 PM**      **Opening Plenary Session, Room 408**

- 1:20–1:45      • The Shifting Landscape of Status Issues by Sue Liemer
- 1:50–2:15      • What to Cover on the First Day of Class? by Bob Brain & Yan Slavinskiy

**2:20–3:15 PM**      **Concurrent Sessions**

- Room 402
- 2:20–2:45 PM: Keeping the Ball Rolling: Suggestions for Revising Legal Writing Curriculum to Incorporate NextGen Bar Foundational Skills by Donna Eng
  - 2:50–3:15: Thomson Reuters Presentation, Jingchi Julie Chen, Academic Account Manager, Washington, DC

- Room 403
- 2:20–2:45 PM: Using Role Play To Prepare Students For Transactional Practice by Christopher Knight
  - 2:50–3:15: LexisNexis, Marisa L. Beirne, Esq.; LexisNexis Research Attorney

**3:15–3:25 PM**      **Break**

**3:25–4:50 PM**      **Concurrent Sessions**

- Room 402
- 3:25–4:15 PM: Legal Writing Professors as AI Gatekeepers? Policies, Policing, and Pedagogy in Transition by Maria Desiree Suarez
  - 4:20–4:50 PM: Two AI Policies Diverged in a Yellow Wood by Elizabeth Chen & Alissa Bauer

- Room 403
- 3:25–3:50 PM: Mindfulness, Physical Activity, and Mindset in the Law School Classroom: Strategies for Resilience and Well-Being in Changing Times by Jane Grise
  - 3:55–4:20 PM: I Just Want You to Hold My Hand: Fostering Independence in Novice Researchers and Writers by Nancy Soonpaa

**5:00–6:00 PM**      **Welcome Happy Hour, 12th Floor**



## Day ② Friday, May 29

### 9:30–10:25 AM Concurrent Sessions

Room 402

- 9:30–9:55 AM: Teaching Legal Writing with Kryptonite, Zombies, and an Alternate Universe by Suzanne Rowe
- 10:00–10:25 AM: Writing for Clients: Plain Language Exercises in the 1L Legal Writing Curriculum by Joseph Hummel

Room 403

- 9:30–9:55 AM: A View From the Fake Bench: Helping Your Mock Judge Help You by Carina Schoenberger
- 10:00–10:25 AM: It's Easier than it Seems: Using Non-Legal Exercises to Promote Legal Writing Skills by Jennifer Pusateri

### 10:30–11:25 AM Concurrent Sessions

Room 402

- 10:30–10:55 AM: Reading, Typography, and Legal Work by Eirik Cheverud
- 11:00–11:25 AM: Bulletizing Explanatory Parentheticals: A Strategy to Improve Readability and Clarity by Mande Baumer

Room 403

- 10:30–10:55 AM: Teaching for a Global Profession: Integrating Foreign and International Legal Research into the LRW Curriculum by Olivia Kaempf
- 11:00–11:25 AM: Why Advocacy Still Matters: Lessons to Learn from KBJ by Sherri Keene

### 11:25–11:35 AM Break

### 11:35–12:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

Room 402

- 11:35 AM–12:00 PM: Justice Advocacy: One Course, Multiple Solutions for Modern Legal Writing by Paige Kohn
- 12:05–12:30 PM: From Analysis to Advocacy: Teaching Client-Centered Communication Through Integrated Legal Drafting by David Spratt

Room 403

- 11:35 AM–12:00 PM: Moving Self-Directed Student Learning from Ideals to Implementations by Anjali Prakash & Jamie Abrams
- 12:05–12:30 PM: Writing Under Pressure: Preparing 1L Writing Samples for Accelerated Hiring by Bethany Lipman & Frances Walters



# Conference Schedule

## Day ② Friday, May 29

**12:30–1:20 PM Lunch, 12th Floor**

**1:30–1:55 PM Concurrent Sessions**

Room 402

- 1:30–1:55 PM: Multiple birds, one stone: using self-reflection exercises for professional identity formation, NextGen bar preparation, and training on responsible use of AI by Leslie Callahan & Catlin Meade

Room 403

- 1:30–1:55 PM: Medium Matters in Preparing for Law Practice: Teaching Critical e-Reading by Amanda Sholtis

**2:00–3:00 PM Closing Plenary Session, Room 408**

• 2:00–2:50

- Becoming Our Best: Professional Identity Formation as a Pathway to Lawyering Excellence in the Age of Generative AI by Fran DeLaurentis & Jessica Wherry

• 2:50–3:00

- Final Notes / End of conference

