



LegalWriting  
institute

## Announcing the 2020 Recipients of the Teresa G. Phelps Award

The Board of Directors of the Legal Writing Institute is delighted to announce that Susan Chesler and Karen Sneddon are the 2020 recipients of the Teresa Godwin Phelps Award for Scholarship in Legal Communication.



Susan Chesler teaches writing, contracts, and skills courses at Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Professor Chesler frequently publishes articles and regularly presents at national and regional conferences on teaching transactional skills, professionalism, contract drafting, and other legal writing topics. Professor Chesler is an active member of the Legal Writing Institute, the Association of Legal Writing Directors, and other professional organizations focusing on teaching skills and promoting the use of plain language in the practice of law. She is also a member of the American Bar Association's Business Law

Section and regularly presents Continuing Legal Education seminars to practicing lawyers on legal writing, contract drafting, and negotiations.

Karen J. Sneddon is a Professor of Law at Mercer University School of Law. Karen was an associate at a New York City Law firm and practiced in the area of trusts and estates before becoming a Forrester Fellow at Tulane Law School. She joined the Mercer University School of Law faculty in 2006. Karen teaches, writes, and speaks in the areas of legal writing, wills, and real estate transactions. Since 2007, Karen and her Mercer colleague Professor David Hricik have co-authored the regular column "Writing Matters" for the *Georgia Bar Journal*.

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 selecting recipients, 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 recommended Professors Chesler and Sneddon for their article titled, From Clause A to Clause Z: Narrative Transportation and the Transactional Reader, 71 S. C. L. Rev. 247 (2019-2020). As one nominator wrote, "[t]he article tackles a subject we don't always think of when we think of narrative, wills drafting, and it builds on their previous work in this area. They make a convincing case that parties are less likely to have estate disputes and more likely to both understand the document and perform according to its terms if the document adopts narrative techniques, particularly narrative transportation. The article is well-researched and supported as well as engaging and well-written."

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 Mary Beth Beazley, Brad Desnoyer, Lucy Jewel, Kim Perez Ricardo, and Helena Whalen Bridge.