



LegalWriting
institute

Announcing the 2022 Recipient of the Teresa G. Phelps Award

The Board of Directors of the Legal Writing Institute is delighted to announce that Robert Anderson is the 2022 recipient of the Teresa Godwin Phelps Award for Scholarship in Legal Communication.



Professor Anderson has taught in the Lawyering Process program at University of Denver Sturm College of Law for more than fifteen years. He teaches his first-year legal research and writing course as a simulation where students learn by practicing the skills of a junior associate in a law firm. Playing the part of a senior attorney in the firm, Robert draws on his own experience as a civil litigator. Robert most recently practiced with Ireland, Stapleton, Pryor & Pascoe, P.C., managing litigation matters in the areas of real estate, creditors' rights in bankruptcy, contracts, and general commercial disputes. Robert's work at Ireland Stapleton built upon his previous trial experience with Chrisman Bynum & Johnson, P.C. as well

as his service as a law clerk for Judge James Casebolt on the Colorado Court of Appeals. Robert served on the Colorado Bar Association's Litigation Section Council, the executive board for the section of the Bar Association that represents all Colorado trial lawyers and litigators. Robert also served as vice-chair of the Colorado Bar Association's Appellate Practice Subcommittee. Robert brings diverse teaching experience beyond his background in the Lawyering Process program, experience that includes teaching an introduction to the legal system to San Francisco middle school students, mentoring Boulder high school students participating as advocates in the Teen Court program, instructing classes of prospective law students preparing to take the LSAT, leading seminars on effective writing for the National Conference of State Legislatures, and teaching appellate brief writing to practicing lawyers.

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 Professor Anderson for his *Legal Communication & Rhetoric: Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors* article titled, "Reclaiming the Singular They in Legal Writing."

As one nominator wrote, "Anderson's examination of the development and rejection of the singular they across history provides a helpful perspective for understanding why there is a persistent bias against the use of the singular they in legal writing. This is an outstanding contribution because it moves the discussion of the use of the singular they forward—using theory, history, and scholarly analysis."

The LWI Board is grateful for the work of the Selection Committee in identifying nominees and making recommendations to the Board. The Selection Committee includes Chair Kim D. Ricardo, Susan Chesler, Rosario Lozada, Karen Sneddon, and Christine Venter.

Please join us in sending congratulations directly to Professor Anderson (randerson@law.du.edu).