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Call for Proposals

Eighth Biennial Conference on Applied Legal Storytelling

July 14-16, 2021

Hosted by Mercer University School of Law

This is the call for proposals for the eighth biennial conference on Applied Legal Storytelling. We are offering two deadlines for submitting proposals: **February 17, 2021** (priority deadline) and **April 21, 2021** (extended deadline).

About the Conference

The Applied Legal Storytelling Conference brings together academics, judges, and practitioners. The conference has previously convened in 2007 (London), 2009 (Portland), 2011 (Denver), 2013 (London), 2015 (Seattle), 2017 (Washington D.C.), and 2019 (Boulder). This year's conference will be held entirely on-line.

Applied Legal Storytelling (AppLS) examines the use of stories—and of storytelling or narrative elements—in law practice, legal education, and the law. This definition is intentionally broad in order to allow people creativity in the way they think and present on the topic. Such topics may include: the ways in which fiction-writing techniques or narrative theory can inform legal storytelling; stories in the law, or law as stories; legal storytelling and metaphor; client story advocacy; legal storytelling and cognitive science; and ethical considerations in legal storytelling. Although the subject of the conference is legal storytelling generally, one track of this year's conference will be devoted to interrogating the past, our country's racial past in particular: what are the stories of law as an instrument of injustice, and how can owning and telling these stories create a more just society.

In an effort to continue the storytelling conversation for this eighth conference, and to welcome new attendees, we are providing resources for those interested in submitting a proposal and who wish to generate ideas or respond to others'. The first is a list of topics from past conferences, available at

<https://www.lwionline.org/sites/default/files/TopicsfrompastAppLSconferences.pdf>. The second is a link to a bibliography on AppLS, including articles that have emerged from previous storytelling conferences, available at <https://www.alwd.org/lcr-archives/fall-2015-volume-12/58-applied-legal-storytelling-a-bibliography>. We are also happy to answer questions and offer you suggestions—if you are a newcomer and interested in becoming involved, please reach out to any of the conference planning committee members below.

Due to ongoing concerns about Covid-19, we are planning this conference to take place entirely online. While we will miss the camaraderie and the opportunities for networking and synergy inherent in an in-person conference, we do hope that the online format will allow a larger group of scholars to attend and participate in this unique conference. The Mercer University School of Law is serving as the host school for this online conference.

Presentation Formats

The conference will include 60-minute and 30-minute time slots. For the 60-minute time slots, we welcome interactive, panel or roundtable presentation proposals, as well as other format types. For the 30-minute time slots, we envision presenters adopting something like the 14–18 minute TED-style format of rehearsed presentations that center on one idea conveyed through narrative, with reserved time for audience questions. On the proposal form, please indicate either a preference for a particular format or your willingness that we accept your proposal in any of the formats and time constraints.

Submitting a Proposal

Complete the Proposal Form found here: <https://bit.ly/34kVRPx>

Deadlines

To allow greater flexibility for those interested in submitting a proposal, the Program Committee has established two submission deadlines:

- The Priority Deadline for submissions is **February 17, 2021**. The Program Committee will review all proposals received by this date by the first week of March.
- The Committee will also consider proposals submitted by the Extended Deadline, **April 21, 2021**, and will review these proposals by the first week of May.

Proposal format

Please use the link above to submit your proposal. We ask for a short summary of fewer than 60 words for use in the conference program, as well as a narrative description of your proposal for selection purposes (500 words, maximum).

Selection process

The Program Committee will review the proposals and respond according to the submission date. Those who submitted proposals by the Priority Deadline (Feb. 17) will be notified by the first week of March if their proposal has been accepted. Those who submitted their proposal by the Extended Deadline (April 21), will be notified by mid-May.

Conference Structure and Registration

The conference will take place online from July 14 to 16, 2021. Many presentations will be presented synchronously by Zoom, but will be recorded and posted online for asynchronous viewing later. There will also be opportunities for asynchronous presentations. We encourage creativity in presentation formats! Like previous AppLS conferences, this conference will be collegial, inclusive, and supportive of your work.

The 2021 conference will begin with a virtual reception early in the evening of July 14. The next two days, July 15 and 16 will be devoted to a plenary session and presentations given in concurrent, synchronous sessions.

We will send out registration information early in 2021. The host school contacts for the conference are Pamela Wilkins (wilkins_pa@law.mercer.edu) or Suzianne Painter-Thorne (painter-thorne_sd@law.mercer.edu). Updates will appear on the conference website, here: <https://www.lwionline.org/conferences/eighth-applied-legal-storytelling-conference>.

Questions

If you have questions, please feel free to contact any member of the conference planning committee:

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Hosts & Sponsors

This conference is sponsored by the Legal Writing Institute (LWI) and The Clinical

Legal Education Association (CLEA); and hosted by the Mercer University School of Law.