



LegalWriting
institute

List of Candidates



Legal Writing Institute Board of Directors 2024-2028


The Legal Writing Institute (LWI) seeks to fill **seven** positions on LWI's Board of Directors. This notice lists the candidates and explains the balloting procedures. A special membership meeting for the election of directors will be held electronically between March 15, 2024, through 11:59 p.m. ET on April 1, 2024. The ballot and instructions for electronic voting are below. You will select your seven preferred candidates on the ballot. You need not rank them. If you were a member of LWI by or before January 15, 2024, then you are eligible to vote. If you have any questions about your eligibility to vote, please contact Immediate Past President Kim Holst before March 15, 2024. LWI will announce the election results on or before April 17, 2024, by posting the results on LWI's website.

This ballot will be available from March 15 through April 1, 2024, after which voting ends and the link will expire. Please remember to **vote for 7 candidates**. Do not rank them. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by name only. You may only cast one ballot.

LWI is especially interested in hardworking, creative, dedicated, dependable, and collaborative community members who will offer diverse perspectives. Elected candidates will begin serving a four-year term of office at the Board meeting held on July 17, 2024, at the 2024 Biennial Conference. Those elected will join the following directors:: President Abigail Perdue (Wake Forest); Immediate Past President Susie Salmon (Arizona); Carolyn Williams (University of North Dakota); Heather Baxter (Nova); Amy Soled (Rutgers); Anne Ralph (Ohio State); Adam Eckart (Suffolk); and Brad Desnoyer (IU-McKinney). The President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Communications & Public Relations Officer will be elected to two-year terms by the incoming Board of Directors at the July 17 meeting. Newly elected Board members may run for one or more of these officer positions.

Below is the list of candidates in alphabetical order:

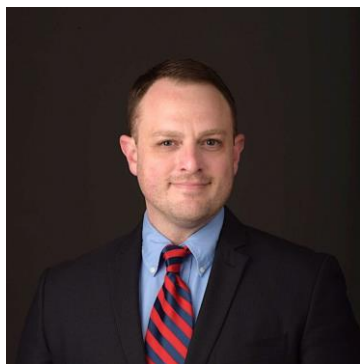
<u>Candidate's Photo</u>	<u>Candidate's Information</u>	<u>Candidate's Personal Statement</u>
	<p>Name: Jacob Carpenter Title: Professor of Legal Writing School: Marquette Email: jacob.carpenter@marquette.edu</p>	<p>My continued involvement and leadership within the Legal Writing Institute for nearly two decades will help me be an effective LWI Board member. Notably, I served as Conference Co-Chair for the successful 2022 LWI Biennial Conference at Georgetown Law in Washington D.C. (with LWI President Susie Salmon, President-Elect Abigail Perdue, and Treasurer Carolyn Williams). For that conference, I also served as the Sponsorship Chair and raised a record amount of sponsorship revenue for an LWI conference. Further, I have served as the Editor-in-Chief of the LWI Monograph Series for the past two years, after serving four years as an editorial board member and then as Managing Editor. I have also chaired the LWI New Member Outreach Committee, chaired the LWI Pro Bono Committee, organized an LWI One-Day Workshop, and organized an LWI Scholar's Forum and Workshop. I have appreciated every opportunity to lead and work with the wonderful legal writing community nationally. Those experiences, and the many relationships I have developed, give me a strong foundation to be an active and productive LWI Board member.</p>
	<p>Name: Erin DeWalt Title: Associate Professor of Legal Writing & Director of Legal Writing School: University of Oklahoma Email: edewalt@ou.edu</p>	<p>I began teaching legal writing at the University of Oklahoma in 2012 and became the Director of Legal Writing in 2022. I'm eager to bring my experience in both teaching LRW and directing an LRW program to the Legal Writing Institute (LWI) Board. I've seen firsthand the impact of strong communication in the legal world and believe in the power of effective legal writing education. Joining the board is a chance for me to contribute my insights, collaborate with peers, and shape the future of legal writing. I'm ready to actively engage in initiatives that elevate the field. I'm confident that my practical experience and commitment align well with the LWI Board's goals. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the institute's success.</p>

	<p>Name: Maryam Franzella Title: Associate Professor of Legal Writing School: Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University Email: maryam.franzella@hofstra.edu *Currently serves as LEAP Board Member</p>	<p>I have been teaching legal writing at Hofstra Law School since 2019. In July 2022, I took office on the LWI Board as the Leadership Experience and Advancement Pipeline (LEAP) member and attended my first Board meeting at the Biennial Conference in Washington, D.C. I accepted the position to take a more active role in what I consider to be an invaluable organization that unites many people in the country around a common objective. Through our Board meetings, I have absorbed a considerable amount of information about LWI's operations, but I know that there is much more for me to learn, considering that much of its workings are based on comprehensive institutional knowledge. To the best of my ability, I have shared insights and ideas. I have also gained a greater understanding of one area, LWI awards, because of my role as the liaison to the Awards Committee. That committee has convened to deliberate several things, including enhancing the nomination and selection processes, modifying the deadline for some awards, and contemplating a committee handbook. As liaison, I have diligently channeled information between the committee and the Board. I hope to contribute in many other areas in the future. Thank you.</p>
	<p>Name: Heather L. Hall Title: Associate Professor of Legal Analysis and Communication School: Mississippi College School of Law Email: hhall2@mc.edu</p>	<p>I am a legal writing and academic success professor at Mississippi College School of Law. When I transitioned from private practice to academia three years ago, I found my true passion. Teaching and mentoring law students by helping them learn the written craft that is the very foundation of our profession truly brings me joy. I am constantly looking for ways to improve, innovate, and provide our students with the best educational experience possible. I am dedicated to exploring new ideas and techniques as well as sharing information among colleagues to help us all be the best at what we do!</p>



Name: Lori Johnson
Title: Professor of Law
School: UNLV
Email:
Lori.Johnson@unlv.edu

Before I began teaching legal writing in 2010, my institution was generous enough to send me to the LWI Conference in Marco Island. That conference was my introduction to this amazing community of scholars, teachers, colleagues, and friends. The conference was a formative experience in my academic career, and I remain grateful for the connections I made there. In the ensuing thirteen years, I have been involved in our community in a variety of ways – most notably by serving as 2022 Chair of the AALS Section on Legal Writing Reasoning, and Research; a Steering Committee Member for the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference; an Editorial Board Member of the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute; an ALWD Delegate; and a Steering Committee Member for Emory’s Biennial Conference on Transactional Law and Skills. My scholarship has benefited greatly from the several Sirico Scholars’ Workshops I have had the privilege of attending, and my teaching has been enhanced by attending (and hosting) several LWI One-Day Workshops. I would be honored to continue my service to the legal writing Community by serving on the Board of the Legal Writing Institute. I would appreciate your support!



Name: Joshua Aaron Jones
Title: Legal Writing Professor
School: California Western School of Law
Email: jjones@cwsu.edu

Please accept this nomination for my candidacy to the Legal Writing Institute's Board of Directors. Since joining the Academy five years ago, I hope I have made myself helpful to the legal writing community. LWI Board service would help me grow stronger roots among the LRW family while I pay-forward the support that I have received.

Highlights from my participation with LWI, AALS LWRR, and ALWD include:

-15 speaking engagements, including One-Day Conferences, regional conferences, LWI Biennial, SEALS panels, ALWD panels, and Applied Legal Storytelling;

-2 scholarly publications, one produced as an ALWD/LWI Scholarship Grant and my forthcoming piece from the Sirico Scholars Workshop 2023;



-ALWD/LWI Scholarship Grant mentor.



-LWI Website Committee; past member of the Diversity Committee;



-AALS LWRR Outreach Committee co-chair;


These experiences have provided me with a robust perspective of the legal writing community, beyond LWI.


I've also been a director and officer for several non-profit boards, including the ACLU of Florida, the Florida Academy of Collaborative Professionals, West Florida Collaborative Law, and the Escambia Santa Rosa Bar Association. I offer deep knowledge about non-profit management that will help preserve LWI's solid foundation and aid its continuous growth.

	<p>Name: Ellie Margolis Title: Professor of Law School: Temple Law School Email: ellie.margolis@temple.edu</p>	<p>It would be my honor to serve as a member of the LWI Board. Throughout my career, I have been involved in LWI and benefited from its work. I have served as a member of the editorial board of Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute, chaired the joint LWI/ALWD Scholarship Grants Committee and the Discipline Building Working Group, and I currently serve on the editorial board of the Monograph Series. I also served two terms as a member of the ALWD Board of Directors.</p> <p>The through-line of my national service has been to promote the recognition of legal writing as an academic discipline within the legal academy, promote diversity and inclusion within the legal writing discipline, and to improve the status of legal writing professors. The Legal Writing Institute plays an important role in these efforts and I would love an opportunity to sit on the Board and continue this work.</p>
	<p>Name: Kristen Murray Title: Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs School: Temple University, Beasley School of Law Email: murrayk@temple.edu *Currently serves as Secretary of the LWI Board</p>	<p>I welcome the opportunity to serve a second term on the Board. I originally ran for a Board position because I wanted to be more involved in and to give back to LWI. During my first term I feel that both of these things came to bear and I know that I have more to give. This past biennium, I have served as Secretary of the Board and have spearheaded the efforts behind LWI's New Teacher Training Bootcamps. Through both roles I have gotten to meet many members of our community, think strategically about what LWI does, and consider what LWI can do differently in the future. I have a deeper appreciation for the importance of active participation in our organization (and our community of scholars and teachers). I look forward to the chance to continue to do all this in a second term on the Board.</p>

	<p>Name: Pamela Newell Title: Lecturer in Law School: University of Buffalo School of Law Email: pjnewell@buffalo.edu</p>	<p>I am running for the LWI Board because I am deeply committed to advancing the field of legal writing and enhancing the quality of legal education. As an experienced legal writing instructor, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact that effective communication skills can have on law students' academic and professional success. Serving on the LWI board would provide me with a platform to contribute to the development of innovative pedagogical approaches, resources, and initiatives that can empower legal writing educators across the globe.</p> <p>I believe in the importance of fostering a supportive and collaborative community within the legal writing profession. By actively engaging with fellow educators, sharing best practices, and promoting inclusivity and diversity, we can collectively work towards elevating the standards of legal writing instruction and promoting excellence in legal scholarship. Additionally, I am eager to advocate for the recognition of legal writing as a fundamental component of legal education and the legal profession. By serving on the LWI board, I aim to amplify the voice of legal writing professionals and champion initiatives that highlight the indispensable role of legal writing in shaping competent and ethical lawyers.</p>
	<p>Name: Robert Parrish Title: Professor of Practice & Associate Dean of Academic Programs and Students School: Emory University School of Law Email: robert.a.parrish@emory.edu</p>	<p>I want to be at the forefront of innovation within the legal writing community and to help steer its further evolution as an equal peer as its doctrinal counterparts within the legal academy. I also want to do my part in continuing to foster the strong and supportive community ethos of LWI by joining the board. It is a community that I consider one of my most important professional "homes" and I would like to do my part to help maintain it.</p>

	<p>Name: Nancy Soonpaa Title: Professor of Law School: Texas Tech University School of Law Email: nancy.soonpaa@ttu.edu</p>	<p>I've been teaching LRW for over 30 years and counting! I'd love to spend the next four years serving on the LWI Board. I've been on more committees for LWI (and ALWD) than I can count--program committees, conference committees, Bench and Bar, new members, diversity--you name a committee, I've probably been a member of or chaired it. I've also been active in SEALS and AALS (multiple sections in leadership roles).</p> <p>But more importantly, I've taught at three schools with widely varying statuses and shepherded one (Texas Tech) through a successful conversion to a full-parity tenure-track status for its professors. I've directed a program; I've been an associate dean; I'm an internationally winning advocacy coach. My core package is a mix of skills and doctrinal courses. I'm a full professor of law. I've presented at myriad conferences--close to a hundred presentations at last count, and every LWI Biennial Conference since I started teaching.</p> <p>My range of career experiences offers the diversity that you seek in the Board, and I'd be so pleased to join it.</p>
	<p>Name: Kristina Swanson Title: Associate Teaching Professor School: Notre Dame Law School Email: kswanso2@nd.edu</p>	<p>I seek to serve as an LWI Board Member because I value this community as a place of innovation and support. As a relatively recent convert from long-time legal practice to the academy, I am steeped in the needs of new legal writing professors and the needs of students entering practice. In short, I have a helpful perspective and dedication to our collective work. LWI has been invaluable to me. LWI provided me with training, mentoring, collaboration, support, and friendship. Because of LWI's support, I'm all in as a legal writing professor. There is nothing else I want to do and nowhere else I want to be. I want to give back to LWI, with admitted awareness that I, my program, my law school, and my students, will benefit greatly by my LWI service. Thank you for considering me for the LWI Board.</p>

	<p>Name: Amber Tracey Title: Attorney School: N/A Institution: Tracey Law, PA Email: amber@tracey-law.com</p>	<p>Having established a commitment to legal research and writing, I was granted non-faculty membership into the LWI in 2010. Representation and inclusion of a non-faculty member on LWI's Board of Directors is important to ensure the scope and breadth of legal writers are captured for the upcoming term and beyond. I am such a candidate.</p> <p>Indeed, as a non-faculty panel participant at the One-Day Workshop in December 2012, I seasoned the discussion and provided a unique, practical perspective to the event. In this way, my career is richly infused with captured opportunities to guide young and seasoned attorneys, hearing officers and judges to develop more effective methods of legal research and writing outside of the classroom.</p> <p>If elected, I will merge my passion for advocacy with my fellow board members to collaborate toward the advancement of the institute's mission to promote excellence in legal writing in education, and in practice. If elected, I will leverage my practical expertise and knowledge of the inner workings of judicial systems to contribute to the institute's initiative to highlight legal research and writing as an integral aspect of the law school curriculum. If elected, I will be happy!</p> <p>Thank you for considering my candidacy.</p>
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	<p>Name: Em Wright Title: Assistant Professor of Law School: Stetson University College of Law Email: ewright2@law.stetson.edu</p>	<p>I'm interested in serving on the LWI Board because of LWI's essential role in shepherding the legal writing discipline through the dramatic changes taking place in law, society, and legal education. LWI's resources and advocacy were invaluable to my becoming a law professor and—even more—to my commitment to teaching legal writing. LWI's community of teachers and scholars inspire me daily, and I've seen the cascading impact of LWI's work passed along to students who become teaching assistants and supervising attorneys. LWI's teaching programming, support for scholarship, and advocacy for legal writing education improves the state of legal communication in the U.S. and ultimately the state of the law.</p> <p>I've served on and co-chaired LWI committees since I became a full-time legal writing teacher, and I previously served as a board member and as Secretary of the Stonewall Bar Association of Georgia. My experiences in varied workplaces, community service organizations, and bar associations reinforce my firm belief in showing up. Stakeholders too often offer criticism and complaint and too rarely volunteer to help. LWI has shown up for me during the beginning of my career, and I want to show up for LWI.</p>
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If you have questions or comments about nomination or balloting procedures, please e-mail these members of the LWI Election Committee, Kim Holst, at kimberly.holst@asu.edu, Susie Salmon, at salmon@arizona.edu, or Abigail Perdue, at perduea@wfu.edu.