



LegalWriting  
institute

Dear LWI Colleagues,

At our 18th Biennial Conference this summer at Marquette University, we returned to a law school venue for the first time in ten years. Our plenary speaker, Dr. Corey Seemiller, talked to us about our incoming Generation Z students, who grew up using every form of social media available— texting, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, and more—and, at the same time, want to work hard to make the world a better place for future generations.

The Discipline Building Working Group led an interesting discussion on how legal writing scholarship can build and reflect our values as a community, stay fresh, and combine theory and practice in the pursuit of justice. The Professional Status Committee presented the results of its recent informal survey and reported that employment conditions for most of us appear relatively stable.

We also celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute, which has given legal writing scholars a voice where we might not otherwise have had one, conferred value on our scholarship, and helped grow our discipline. Representatives from all legal writing publications, Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute, Legal Communication & Rhetoric: JALWD, LWI Lives, the Monograph Series, Scribes, The Second Draft, #Appellate Twitter, and various blogs also met to discuss challenges for building and maintaining our readership in a digital world. Several ideas came out of that meeting, one of which is to formalize our collaboration with a standing committee to continue the discussion.

### **Discipline Building and Professional Status updates**

As we enter this new biennium, LWI will continue to focus on discipline building—promoting excellence in teaching as well as scholarship—and improving the status of legal writing faculty across the country. With regard to discipline building, One-Day Workshops will be held at eleven law schools between November 30 and December 14. Check the LWI website for details and updates. Regional conferences will also be posted on the website, “We Write” retreats will continue, and we hope to host an interdisciplinary symposium with articles to be published in

the Journal. With regard to status, the Professional Status Committee is at work on a number of projects, including publishing the story of our citizenship statement and a position paper on ABA Standard 405(d). It is also putting together a number of tool kits that will be available to help members facing security of position challenges and programs in transition. A list of schools with tenure eligibility for legal writing faculty and schools with autonomous programs is now available on the website under "Status-Related Advocacy."

## **Diversity and inclusion**

In addition to these ongoing efforts, LWI will work toward implementing the recommendations of the 2016-18 Diversity and Inclusion Committee to promote diversity of perspectives in the legal writing classroom, increase hiring and retention of faculty of color, create safe spaces for and combat prejudice against LGBTQ faculty and students, and assess the challenges facing legal writing faculty with disabilities. The Board is currently working to set priorities and an action plan. LWI also hopes to partner with the Association of Legal Writing Directors to address together these issues, which affect our community as a whole.

## **New committee initiatives**

New committees this year include an Academic Support Committee, chaired by Renee Allen and Jarrod Reich, which will gather information on the nature of academic support programs in law schools and recommend ways in which LWI can partner with ASP faculty to further LWI's mission. Also new is the Public Relations and Social Media Committee, chaired by Ruth Anne Robbins, which will advise the Board on improving LWI's visual identity and presence in social media. The Website Maintenance and Updates Committee, chaired by Dan Real and Neil Sobol, will develop procedures for keeping our new website current. Finally, our Teaching Resources Committee, chaired by Heather Baxter and Michelle Cue, will work to resolve problems with the functioning of our Teaching Bank.

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 2: FALL 2018 | LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE | THE SECOND DRAFT | I

## **ALWD/LWI Survey**

As you know, the report of the 2016-17 survey in its new format was released in April 2018. The institutional portion of the 2017-18 survey was sent out in June, and the new portion of the survey seeking individual responses will be sent out as institutional surveys are returned. Please be sure to answer the survey when it shows up in your mailbox.

## **Upcoming conferences**

Mark your calendars! The Seventh Applied Legal Storytelling Conference will be held next summer at the University of Colorado from July 9-11, 2019, sponsored by LWI, CLEA, and the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Scholarship Group. Plans are already underway with the gala dinner to be held at the Colorado Chautauqua Dining Hall, in existence since 1898 and with

spectacular mountain views. Be on the lookout for the call for proposals coming out soon. The following year, we will host the 19th LWI Biennial Conference at Georgetown University Law Center from July 15-18, 2020.

## **Collaborations**

Apropos of this issue, LWI introduces a new collaboration with the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress. LWI Board member Iselin Gambert will serve as a liaison member of this committee as we work with them to educate faculty, students, and the general public about the wealth of resources the Library of Congress has to offer. We will also continue to collaborate with SALT, as Kim Chanbonpin becomes LWI's affiliate member of the SALT Board, and CLEA, which co-sponsors the Applied Legal Storytelling Conference.

## **Congratulations**

Once again, welcome to our new LWI Board members Kirsten Davis, Shakira Pleasant, and Anne Ralph. Congratulations to our newly elected officers: PresidentElect Kim Holst, Treasurer Jason Palmer, and Secretary Rebecca Scharf. And a final congratulations to the 2017 Teresa Godwin Phelps Award winner, Linda Edwards, and the 2018 Golden Pen Award winner, Terri LeClercq. If you have any questions or comments about any LWI-related matters, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Board. I wish you an enjoyable and productive fall semester,

Sincerely,

LWI President  
Kristen K. Tiscione