



LegalWriting
institute

Dear LWI Colleagues,

I have a small white board on my refrigerator with self-caricatures of my husband and me. Above us is a dialogue balloon that I typically fill with reminders, bits of advice, and what I hope are inspirational messages. It fulfills my need to continue to sound the parental voice of reason without provoking the direct wrath of our “adult” children. As I write this message on a sweltering hot and humid day in mid-July, I can see that board out of the corner of my eye telling me to “Cherish Summer.” By the time you read this, we will have launched into the 2019-2020 academic year and left July far behind. I hope you were able to make personal time for yourselves this summer and that it did not fly by as quickly as mine seemed to do. Oh, for those summer days when my children were young that seemed to stretch deliciously on and on.

LWI had a busy end of the Spring 2019 semester and summer, and I am pleased here to update you on what we have experienced and accomplished together since my last message.

Yet another applied legal storytelling conference success

LWI and CLEA’s Seventh Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference was a great success. Held July 9-11, 2019, at the University of Colorado at Boulder, the conference was co-hosted by the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and University of Wyoming School of Law, and coordinated by the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Scholarship Group. The scenery, law school, presentations, and gala at the Chautauqua Dining Hall—all inspiring and delightful. We also heard a stimulating keynote address from Susan Schulten, Professor and Department Chair of History at the University of Denver, on the stories that maps tell us about American history. Thanks again to committee chairs Nantiya Ruan and Amy Griffin, as well as the planning committee, Deb Cantrell, Ken Chestek, Derek Kiernan-Johnson, Robert McPeake, Jason Palmer, Ruth Anne Robbins, and Beth Schwartz.

Awards

Phelps Award Recipient

Teri A. McMurtry Chubb At the storytelling conference gala at Chautauqua Dining Hall, I had the pleasure of awarding the 2018 Teresa Godwin Phelps Award to Teri McMurtry-Chubb for her article, *The Rhetoric of Race, Redemption, and Will Contests: Inheritance as Reparations in John Grisham's Sycamore Row*, 48 *Memphis L. Rev.* 889 (2018). As Teri herself told me, there was no better venue for Teri to receive this award for her article on a work of fiction than the storytelling conference. Congratulations again, Teri!

New Emerging Scholar and Influential Teaching Awards

Last spring, the Board approved two new awards: the Emerging Scholars Award and the Influential Teaching Award. The former award is designed to recognize valuable scholarly contributions to the legal writing discipline by faculty early in their careers, while the latter award underscores LWI's commitment to high-quality teaching in our community. We anticipate the first recipients being recognized at the 2020 Biennial Conference in Washington D.C. Thanks once again to our fabulously creative and devoted Awards Committee members, Brenda Gibson (co-chair), Greg Johnson (cochair), Andrew Carter, Lindsey Gustafson, Margaret Hannon, Dana Hill, Mary Nagel, and Suzanne Rowe.

Branding efforts

Visual identity manual

I am excited to announce the first of several projects the Board has been working on to improve the appeal, uniformity, and recognition of the LWI brand. When I took office, I asked Ruth Anne Robbins to chair a new Public Relations & Social Media Committee, which presented the Board with a draft visual identity manual in July that was later approved this fall. The manual will help the Board and Committees communicate both internally and externally in a more professional and uniform manner. This message is styled with the spirit of the new manual in mind.

Webmaster

In conjunction with developing our new visual identity manual, the Board has decided to appoint a Webmaster to add content of interest to the membership to our website and keep it current. Our Website Maintenance and Updates Committee, Dan Real (co-chair), Neil Sobol (co-chair), Cynthia Adams, Megan Boyd, and Rebecca Scharf, do a terrific job helping members with access to the Teaching Bank, troubleshooting website issues, and posting information to

the site, but the tasks associated with gathering and updating content for a site as large as ours is another job altogether.

Committee updates

Diversity & Inclusion Committee As part of its mission to foster and support diversity and inclusion in legal writing education, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee coordinated with ALWD to host a pre-gala reception on Thursday, May 30, at the 2019 ALWD Biennial Conference at Suffolk University Law School. By all accounts, the reception was a big hit. Thanks to LWI Board member and ALWD Conference Program Committee member Sam Moppett for her assistance as well as Diversity & Inclusion Committee members, Sha-Shana Crichton (co-chair), Shailini George (co-chair), Diana Donahoe, Meredith Stange, Bruce Ching, Rachel Smith, Latisha Nixon-Jones, and Maureen Johnson for their innovation and effort.

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Professional Status Committee

The Professional Status Committee is proud to announce progress on two projects. First, a sub-committee started work at the 2018 biennial on an article arguing that all skillsbased faculty should be entitled to a security of position equal to ABA Standard 405(c) and that 405(d) be eliminated. That article is now complete and has been accepted for publication by the Oregon Law Review: *Treating Professionals Professionally: Requiring Security of Position for All Skills-Focused Faculty Under ABA Accreditation Standard 405(c) and Eliminating 405(d)*, 98 Or. L. Rev. (forthcoming 2019-20). Another sub-committee has been compiling the first of several planned toolkits, which will be posted on our website. The first toolkit will be a compilation of materials related to salary equity and should be available this fall. Thanks to the continued efforts of this committee, whose members include Mary Bowman (cochair), Melissa Weresh (co-chair), David Austin, Heidi Brown, Olympia Duhart, Lyn Entrikin, Lucy Jewel, Suzanne Rowe, Amy Sloan, and Craig Smith.

Scholarship Development Committee

The Scholarship Development Committee has been working hard to bring attention to timely topics to advance scholarship within the legal writing, research, and analysis community and provide scholarship support in a variety of forms. In July, the Committee gathered information about members' interest in writing groups and related writing support, made us aware of upcoming scholarship deadlines of potential interest, and gathered together a number of useful resources.

For more information, visit the Committee's new webpage, at <https://www.lwionline.org/scholarship-development-committee>. Thanks to committee members Kristen Murray (cochair), Kathleen Elliott Vinson (co-chair), Alyssa Dragnich, Tamara Herrera, Brian N. Larson, Susan McMahan, and Danielle Tully.

In memoriam

This has been a particularly difficult period for our community, having lost two dear friends, Lou Sirico and Ralph Brill, within six months of each other. We plan to honor their memory and contributions to the legal writing discipline properly at the 2020 Biennial Conference in D.C. Our hearts are with their loved ones.

Sirico Scholars Workshop 2019

The sixteenth Legal Writing Institute Writers' Workshop—recently named the Sirico Scholars' Workshop in honor of our dear Villanova colleague Lou Sirico—was held in July 2019 at a vacation home in the mountains near Boulder, Colorado. The workshop consisted of three days of writing, critiquing, and sharing nine works-in-progress. The Workshop took place immediately after the Seventh Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference at the University of Colorado. Our thanks to facilitators Cynthia Adams, Ken Chestek, and Christine Coughlin, as well as Governing Board Members Cindy Adams, Ken Chestek, Deborah Gordon, Michael Higdon, Kim Holst, and Kathy Stanchi.

Upcoming events

- One-Day Workshops (Fall 2019)
- Conferences AALS Annual Meeting, January 2-5, 2020, at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. LWI Biennial Conference, July 15-18, 2020, at Georgetown University Law Center, in Washington, D.C.
- Legal Writing Institute Journal Board Elections (Spring 2020)

Sincerely,

LWI President
Kristen K. Tiscione