LWI One-Day Workshop at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Friday, December 11, 2026
Virtual, Eastern

Time	Speaker	Presentation
11:00 – 11:25 a.m.	Whitney Heard & Megan Kibler Jacobs (University of Houston Law Center)	*Making the Case for Clerkships* Gone are the days when students accepted the value of judicial clerkships and endured the application process without question! In this presentation, we will begin by briefly examining the reasons why today's students may be more hesitant to pursue a judicial clerkship after graduation and why this hesitancy is problematic. Then, we will identify how faculty, alumni, and other stakeholders can address this growing student hesitation with reframing strategies, targeted talking points, and network-engagement models. Time permitting, we would like to hear from audience members

		about how they are making the case for clerkships at their institutions.
11:30 – 11:55 a.m.	Kerry Kornblatt (University of Michigan School of Law)	*Teaching Clerkship Classes: How We Do it Now and What's Next* Law schools are increasingly offering clerkship and/or clerkship-writing classes. This presentation will survey those in our community who teach these classes, and report back on the pedagogy and curriculum choices we're making. It will also welcome discussion from attendees about best practices and what kinds of innovative steps we might take next.
11:55 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Group Discussion	Opportunity for audience members to join in and discuss ideas from previous presentations.
12:30 – 12:55 p.m.	Abby Perdue (Wake Forest University School of Law)	*AI-Assisted Judicial Decision-Making: Data, Perceptions, and Possible Implications* The goal of the presentation is to highlight what we currently know about judicial use of GenAI (by judges, law clerks, and judicial externs), law student perceptions of such use based on preliminary findings from my IRB-approved study, and the potential implications for faculty who teach judicial writing, direct judicial externship programs, or advise clerkship applicants.
1:00 – 1:25 p.m.	Nicole Chong (Penn State Dickinson Law)	*Can Clerks Use AI? Preparing Law Students for AI in Judicial Chambers* May a judicial clerk use generative AI to research an unfamiliar issue, summarize cases, or assist with drafting? The answer depends on the judge, court, and task. This session examines

		how judges and courts are approaching clerks' use of AI and how professors can prepare students to work within those evolving expectations. Using legal research as a practical context, the presentation will explore restrictions on AI use, confidentiality and accuracy concerns, verification obligations, and the continued importance of independent legal judgment.
1:25 – 1:45 p.m.	Group Discussion	Opportunity for audience members to join in and discuss ideas from previous presentations.
2:00 – 2:25 p.m.	Mary Claire Davis (West Virginia University College of Law)	*Preparing Future Law Clerks from Day One: Integrating Clerkship Skills and Awareness into the 1L Legal Writing Classroom* Many students reach their second or third year of law school with little understanding or appreciation for what law clerks do and how they support a judge's work. First-year legal writing courses offer a unique opportunity to introduce students to the work of law clerks. My presentation will focus on minor but practical tweaks in the first-year legal writing curriculum to incorporate clerkship awareness and judicial perspective. I will provide ideas for writing assignments and classroom activities that challenge students to not only think like a law clerk, but also understand the importance of the law clerk's role in chambers.
2:30 to 2:55 p.m.	Janet Brown (Northwestern Pritzker School of Law)	*Clerkship-Ready: Developing the Skills and Qualities Judges Value Most* It's no surprise that judges are seeking clerkship candidates who are strong researchers, analytical thinkers, and writers. But the wish-list of desired traits doesn't end there. In this

		presentation, I will draw on more than a dozen years of advising clerkship candidates, teaching judicial writing and experiential learning courses for law clerks and externs, and talking with judges about what they value most. I will share insights into additional attributes that judges commonly prioritize in law clerk hiring and will offer suggestions for how we can integrate those elements into our course design to help students develop and refine that highly valued skillset.
2:55 – 3:15 p.m.	Group Discussion	Opportunity for audience members to join in and discuss ideas from previous presentations.