



LWI One-Day Workshop
Sponsored by LWI Clerkship Committee
Hosted jointly by
Notre Dame School of Law and Wake Forest University School of Law
December 5, 2025
Virtual
All times listed are EST.

Time	Speaker	Presentation
11:00-11:05 am	Welcome	
11:05-11:30 am	Kari Gallagher Notre Dame Law School	Avoiding Clerkship Missteps: What Judges Want Us to Teach Future Clerks Judges have different ways of evaluating record material, analyzing legal issues, and writing opinions. However, they are remarkably similar when it comes to expectations for their clerks. This presentation will identify the areas where new clerks often fall short of their judges' expectations—in

		research, writing, and understanding of the role of the judiciary—and will suggest ways that we can address these shortcomings in our judicial-drafting and clerkship-preparation courses.
11:35 am-12:00 pm	Kristen Hardy University of Florida Levin College of Law	Judicial Clerkship and Professional Identity Formation Judicial clerkships are among the most coveted roles for new attorneys, offering unparalleled prestige and value. As educators, we must guide students to see clerkships not just as accolades, but as apprenticeships—opportunities to develop the values and guiding principles preserved by the standard-bearers of our profession. Judges are training future members of the bench, and the profession needs future judges grounded in professionalism and fully formed professional identities. We can initiate this in law school by integrating professional identity formation into clerkship preparation. My presentation explores how to do this through clerkship writing courses and training programs.
12:00-12:25 pm	Katrina Robinson Cornell Law School	Working the Record This presentation will focus on teaching students how to prepare to discuss/write a summary judgment decision, particularly in jurisdictions that require parties to submit dueling statements of material fact. We will discuss how to use PACER, how to click through supporting documents, how to manage them, etc.
12:30-12:55 pm	Dustin Brown University of Wisconsin Law School	Impure Thoughts: Reflections on a Judicial Writing Class In a judicial writing class, students play judge in more ways than one: resolving cases but also judging the judges. This presentation is my chance to judge my own class, which I’m

		now teaching for the second time. I will share several original and adapted exercises—in which students and I distinguished features of “pure” and “impure” opinions, uncovered patterns of particular jurists, and recreated Joe Kimble’s empirical test of plain-language opinions.
12:55-1:40 pm	Lunch break	
1:40-2:05 pm	Mary Claire Davis West Virginia College of Law	Chamber of Secrets: How to Demystify the Clerkship Process for Law Students When I joined WVU after twelve years of clerking, I quickly found that not only did students not know what law clerks did, but they thought clerking was a step down—that they filed papers or answered phones. Through programming, outreach, and faculty buy-in, our Committee has successfully and consistently placed 9-12% of our graduates in state or federal clerkships each year for the past three years. My presentation will highlight strategies we used to increase awareness about what law clerks do, as well as techniques to guide students through the application process and prepare them for the clerkship experience.
2:10-2:35 pm	Nicole Chong Penn State Dickinson Law	Researching for the Bench: Teaching Law Students to Research Like Clerks This session will explore effective strategies for teaching legal research with a focus on preparing students for judicial clerkships. It will highlight the unique research demands clerks face, including utilizing research tools that would be especially effective for judicial clerks. The presentation also will address emerging concerns about generative AI in legal research—how clerks can critically assess AI-generated

		content and maintain professional responsibility. Attendees will gain pedagogical tools to enhance students' research precision, source evaluation, and ethical awareness in clerkship contexts.
2:35-2:45 pm	BREAK	
2:45-3:10 pm	Whitney Heard University of Houston Law Center	From First Gen to Judicial Clerk In this presentation, we will discuss how we can encourage and support first-generation students, in particular, to pursue judicial clerkships. As a first-gen law student, I felt lost going through the application and interview process. Not surprisingly, I made mistakes and missed opportunities before eventually securing a judicial clerkship. Since I started teaching legal writing, I've made an extra effort to ensure my students feel empowered and prepared to clerk for a judge. In my conference presentation, I will describe my approach and discuss how it has helped first-generation students to successfully obtain judicial clerkships and serve as judicial clerks.
3:15-4:15 pm	Abigail Perdue Wake Forest University School of Law Moderator	From the Chambers to the Classroom: Judicial Perspectives on Preparing Attorneys-in-Progress This panel discussion will feature a diverse group of 3–4 judges (and possibly a law clerk or judicial policy figure) from trial and appellate courts, both federal and state, offering candid insights on pressing issues in legal education and practice. Questions will explore judicial attitudes toward generative AI in courts, chambers, and advocacy; public perception and legitimacy of the judiciary; and how judges safeguard impartiality as well as exemplify integrity and

		dignity in a changing legal landscape. Panelists will also discuss common shortcomings of incoming clerks, the evolving role of the courts, the importance of civility across difference, the secret to dissenting respectfully, and recommendations for legal educators, especially those who teach judicial drafting courses or run judicial externships. The session will highlight how law schools can better prepare students to clerk, practice, and serve on the bench, especially in the GAI era.
4:15	Closing	