



**New Member Information Guide  
2018-2020**

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## WELCOME

Greetings from the Legal Writing Institute's New Member Outreach Committee and all members of the Legal Writing Institute (LWI)! LWI has over 2800 members, including representatives from thirty-eight different countries. LWI also includes members from English departments, independent research and consulting organizations, and the practicing bar. Anyone interested in legal writing or teaching legal writing may join. Whether you are new to the discipline or a veteran professor, we want to welcome you to LWI and introduce you to some helpful resources.

### ***Publications***

LWI was founded in 1984 to promote legal writing information exchange and idea sharing. LWI also provides a research and scholarship forum regarding legal writing, analysis, and research. LWI promotes these activities through conferences, workshops, and via scholarly publications like *The Second Draft*, *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, and *The Monograph Series*. Past issues of these publications are available on [LWI's website](#).

### ***Communications***

Members of LWI may subscribe to the listserv, LRWPROF-L, which provides a platform to discuss teaching ideas and to circulate announcements, questions, and job openings. If you wish to be added, contact a member of the LWI Listserv Committee.

### ***Teaching Bank***

LWI further provides a Teaching Bank for professors to share assignments and teaching materials. Access to the Teaching Bank is limited to professional teachers of legal writing. To apply for membership to the Teaching Bank, fill out this [form](#). You will also have an opportunity to join the LRWPROF-L listserv. Once your membership is approved, you can access the bank by signing in to the LWI website and clicking on "Teaching Bank" under Resources. The Teaching Bank is organized by various categories, such as memo assignments, brief assignments, appellate assignments, research assignments, and so on. The website allows you to filter content by subject area and category. To add a resource, click on "Add a Resource" next to the Search box in the bank.

## ***Conferences***

LWI sponsored its first national conference on legal writing in 1984. The 2018 biennial conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attracted roughly 500 participants and a diverse array of presentations and workshops. The next LWI Biennial Conference will be held at Georgetown University School of Law in July 2020. LWI's second major conference is the Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, which will be held in Colorado in July 2019.

LWI also sponsors One-Day Workshops and advertises regional conferences hosted by schools around the country. Click [here](#) to learn more about these conferences and workshops.

## ***New Member Outreach Committee and Activities***

The New Member Outreach Committee often hosts new member events at these and other conferences, including Global Legal Skills, AALS, and SEALS. This committee also offers a Mentoring Program, which provides opportunities for experienced and new members to mentor each other on teaching, scholarship, and service. A mentor outside your institution can provide a valuable, objective perspective and share insights regarding policies and practices at another institution. For more information on the tremendous value of being mentored, click [here](#). If you would like to be paired with a mentor, please contact the committee co-chairs: Cathren Page (Barry) at [CKoehlert@barry.edu](mailto:CKoehlert@barry.edu) or Abigail Perdue (Wake Forest) at [perduea@wfu.edu](mailto:perduea@wfu.edu).

Please also take a moment to browse the LWI website available at this [link](#). It contains a tremendous amount of helpful information with links to all of the resources described here.

The LWI New Member Outreach Committee compiled this New Member Information Guide to help you learn about LWI and the resources it offers. The following pages provide additional useful information. If you have any questions or would like to talk to a legal research and writing professor at another law school, please contact any member of our committee or the LWI Board of Directors. You may find it particularly useful to contact a committee member from your geographic region because you may have the opportunity to meet regional colleagues at a smaller conference before the next national conference. Let us know what we can do to be helpful!

Sincerely,

The Members of the LWI New Member Outreach Committee

**Co-Chairs** Cathren Page (Barry) and Abigail Perdue (Wake Forest)

**Members:**

Wendy Adele-Humphrey (Texas Tech)

Maureen Collins (John Marshall)

Jeffrey Proske (Pacific)

Nancy Soonpaa (Texas Tech)

Whitney Heard (Houston)

**LWI Board Liaison:** Anne Ralph (Ohio State)

## LWI OPPORTUNITIES TO PUBLISH

The editorial boards of LWI's various publications compiled the information below to help you target a place to publish your scholarship. It is just a guide, of course, and each publication may sometimes select writing other than that described in this list. We hope, however, that it will help you decide where to submit your work and maximize your publication chances. These publications are all peer-edited.

***AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning and Research Newsletter:*** This newsletter publishes reports to the section membership on the presentations at AALS conferences as well as essays and news of the membership. To learn more, click [here](#).

***J. ALWD: Legal Communication and Rhetoric ("LC&R"):*** LC&R, the journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors, publishes full-length articles, shorter articles, empirical research, book reviews, and essays on legal writing substance and practice. Manuscripts should be 15,000 words or less including footnotes. Although LC&R has published pedagogy articles in rare cases, the journal routinely focuses on manuscripts that will appeal to practitioners and judges as well as to teachers and scholars of legal writing. To learn more, click [here](#).

***LWI Lives:*** *LWI Lives* is the publication of the LWI Lives Committee. It profiles the interesting and diverse lives of our membership. It does not accept manuscripts but

welcomes nominations of LWI members to profile, including new members. To learn more, click [here](#).

***Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute (“LWI Journal”):***

The LWI Journal is an online publication that publishes a variety of pieces including full-length articles, shorter articles, empirical research, book reviews, and essays on the legal writing discipline. The legal writing discipline is defined broadly, including a broad range of skills, such as analysis, research, interpretation, and drafting, and a broad range of related disciplines, including rhetoric, linguistics, and composition. Manuscripts should be well supported with research. The journal is available at this [link](#).

***The Monograph Series:*** The Monograph Series is an electronic volume series that reprints collections of articles on specific topics relevant to legal writing teaching, curriculum, scholarship, or status. The Editorial Board selects one topic per issue and evaluates published scholarship on that topic before issuing invitations to authors to reprint their work in the Monograph. Thus, it does not accept manuscripts for first publication. To learn more, click [here](#).

***The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing (“Scribes Journal”):*** The *Scribes Journal of Legal Writing* is a publication of Scribes—the American Society of Legal Writers. The Scribes Journal publishes articles, essays, notes, and other pieces on all facets of legal writing. Our readers include practicing lawyers, judges, academicians, and a wide range of others interested in improving legal writing. Due to the field’s breadth, the Scribe Journal’s contents are purposely eclectic. Scribes advocates lucid, concise, and felicitous writing and “scorn whatever is turgid or needlessly dull.” To learn more, click [here](#).

***The Second Draft:*** *The Second Draft* is an online publication of the Legal Writing Institute that is produced twice yearly. It primarily publishes essays, book reviews, and short, scholarly articles on a vast array of topics. *The Second Draft* primarily aims to provide an environment for sharing ideas and insights about teaching legal research and writing. In that regard, recent issues have showcased pedagogical innovation and focused on narrative’s important role in legal writing. It welcomes high-quality submissions from both new and established legal writing scholars, and each issue contains one column entirely devoted to the observations of a writing specialist. *The Second Draft* is the perfect place to publish your first or fiftieth short article. For more information on *The Second Draft* or to submit a piece for consideration, please email the Editorial Board at [theseconddraftlwi@gmail.com](mailto:theseconddraftlwi@gmail.com).

Click [here](#) to peruse the latest issue or review the archives.

***Perspectives.*** Perspectives is an electronic journal published by Thomson Reuters two times a year for legal research and writing faculty and law firm and law school librarians. The journal provides a forum for discussing the teaching of legal research and writing, focusing on research materials, tools and theories. It is published three times a year and is available free of charge. To subscribe or submit a piece, click [here](#).

## LWI LISTSERVS AND DATABASES

**LRWPROF-L:** This listserv is a closed discussion list intended to provide a forum in which scholars and teachers of legal writing can discuss topics in their field. To join the list or to remove your name from the list, please send an email to David Sorkin, at [David.Sorkin@seattleu.edu](mailto:David.Sorkin@seattleu.edu). Once you have been subscribed to the list, you will receive a welcome message and instructions on how you can manage your own subscription by visiting the web-based list management tool.

**Writing Advisors and Writing Specialists ([advisors@seattleu.edu](mailto:advisors@seattleu.edu)):**

[Advisors@seattleu.edu](mailto:advisors@seattleu.edu) is a listserv for writing advisors and writing specialists who are members of LWI. To subscribe to the list, send an email to Lori Lamb at [lamb1@seattleu.edu](mailto:lamb1@seattleu.edu).

**Moot Court Advisors Listserv:**

The Moot Court Advisors Listserv will serve as a mechanism to gather and disseminate information about law school moot court programs and competitions and to facilitate communication about moot court among members of the Legal Writing Institute. To join or for further information, please contact Jim Dimitri at [jddimitr@iupui.edu](mailto:jddimitr@iupui.edu).

**SSRN Database of Legal Writing Articles:**

LWI hosts the specialty legal writing database on SSRN.Com, to which people may subscribe. A subscription will send you news of the most recent uploads of legal writing articles. The link is <http://www.ssrn.com/link/Legal-Writing.html>. Contact Terry Seligmann at [Terry.J.Seligmann@DREXEL.EDU](mailto:Terry.J.Seligmann@DREXEL.EDU).

## BLOGS

The blogs below are not or affiliated with LWI or LWI-sponsored. However, they are still great resources for new members.

**Legal Writing Professor Blog:** The Legal Writing Professor Blog can be reached at <http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/legalwriting>.

**TeachLawBetter.com:** This blog, which launched in 2017, is dedicated to celebrating experiments in pedagogy and facilitating the free exchange of innovative teaching ideas. It publishes short posts from law professors, professors in other disciplines, legal employers, and law students regarding ways to teach law better. It is an excellent place to share your creative teaching ideas or promote your scholarship. It is also a great source of innovative teaching ideas. To visit the site, click this [link](#).

**Institute of Law Teaching and Learning:** This comprehensive site contains a plethora of teaching resources as well as information regarding upcoming conferences on law teaching and learning. To learn more, click this [link](#).

## TEACHING RESOURCES

LWI provides the following teaching resources that most members, both new and veteran, find very helpful:

***The Monograph Series*** collects articles on teaching legal writing. Each volume can be viewed on the LWI's website at this [link](#).

**LWI's Teaching Resources Committee** provides a FAQ resource located [here](#).

**The LWI Teaching Bank** provides a forum for professors to electronically share assignments and teaching materials with each other. The bank contains hundreds of assignments. It is available [here](#).

## LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2018-2020)

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### **LWI COMMITTEES**

Every two years, LWI committees are formed based on membership interest and input. The range of committees demonstrates the type of work LWI focuses on and the amount of assistance it provides to its members. We encourage new members to get involved by joining a committee. To see a list of our committees and contact an LWI committee chair to inquire about joining, click [here](#).