

**New Member Information Guide
2022-2024**

Greetings from the Legal Writing Institute's New Member Outreach Committee and all members of the Legal Writing Institute! 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 the legal writing teaching may join. Whether you are new to the discipline or a veteran, we want to welcome you to LWI and introduce you to some helpful resources.

Professors founded LWI 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.

LWI further provides a [Teaching Bank](#) for professors to share assignments and teaching materials. Professors update the Teaching Bank every two years. The Teaching Bank is organized by various categories, such as memo assignments, brief assignments, appellate assignments, research assignments, classroom materials, etc. When you click on a category, a new page will pop up, allowing you to click on many different assignments or materials that LWI members have submitted. The Teaching Bank is password-protected, but new LWI members can follow simple instructions on the web page to receive a password.

LWI sponsored its first national conference on legal writing in 1984. The 2018 biennial conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attracted hundreds of participants and a diverse array of insightful presentations and helpful workshops. The next LWI Biennial Conference will be held at Georgetown University School of Law in July 2020. In addition, each year LWI sponsors One-Day Workshops and other regional conferences hosted by schools around the country. LWI also co-hosts the Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, which will be held in Colorado during the summer of 2019. Click [here](#) to learn more about these wonderful opportunities. The New Member Outreach Committee often hosts new member events at these and other conferences, including Global Legal Skills, AALS, and SEALS. You can also subscribe to the LWI-PROF listserv, 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.

In addition, the LWI New Member Outreach Committee 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: Harmony Decosimo (Suffolk) at hdecosimo@suffolk.edu, or Rebecca Moor (UMass) at rmoor@umassd.edu.

By virtue of the fact that you are receiving this guide, you have been added to LWI's membership list. You have also been added to LWINET-L, a one-way distribution list for official LWI announcements. We recommend that you also consider joining the LWI-PROF listserv described above. Please also take a moment to browse through the LWI website available at this [link](#). The website has a tremendous amount of helpful information with links to all of the resources described herein.

The LWI New Member Outreach Committee compiled this New Member Information Guide to help you learn about LWI and the resources it offers. Along with this introduction, the subsequent pages will provide you with more information that you may find helpful. 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 LWI New Member Outreach Committee

Co-Chairs Harmony Decosimo (Suffolk) and Rebecca Moor (UMass)

LWI Board Liaison: Abigail Perdue (Wake Forest)

Members:

Margie Alsbrook (Arkansas)
Candace Centeno (Villanova)
Liz Frost (Oregon)
Doug Godfrey (Chicago-Kent)
Amy Griffin (Georgetown)
Carol Knoepfler (Creighton)
Cathren Page (Mercer)
Gail Stephenson (Southern)
Heidi Thompson (LSU)

LWI OPPORTUNITIES TO PUBLISH

The editorial boards compiled the information in the alphabetical list below to help you target a place to publish. "Stray" could sound like they are being negligent/deviating from their mission. 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 choose where to submit your work and maximize your publication chances. These publications are all peer-edited. Visit this [link](#) to learn more about LWI's diverse publications.

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](#).

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 the 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 that publishes profiles and news of the members of LWI. 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 articles on specific topics relevant to legal writing professional's teaching, curriculum, scholarship, or status. The Editorial Board sets 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: The *Scribes Journal of Legal Writing* ("*Scribes Journal*") 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. Click [here](#) to peruse the latest issue or review the archives.

Perspectives. This periodical 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 (formerly LWIONLINE): 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. Started in 1994, it now has approximately 1300 subscribers. Only professional teachers of legal writing are eligible to join the listserv. Administration and hosting of this list is conducted at Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis. To join the list or to remove your name from the list, please send an email to Jodi.Wilson@memphis.edu. Once you have 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.

LWI-NET: LWI-NET is a one-way email distribution list (similar to a newsletter) set up by LWI to distribute information to members. It is hosted by the Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis. LWI-NET is not a discussion forum. All members of LWI will be added to the mailing list automatically when joining LWI. For more information, contact Jodi Wilson at Jodi.Wilson@memphis.edu.

Writing Advisors and Writing Specialists (advisors@seattleu.edu):

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.

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.

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>. For questions, please contact Terry Seligmann at 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>.

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. Though these were mentioned in the introduction, the following provides more detailed information and addresses for each:

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. Professors have uploaded hundreds of assignments to the Teaching Bank and broken them into various categories for other professors to consider using or adapting for their own classes. The Teaching Bank can be reached [here](#). The website provides instructions for obtaining a password.

LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022-2024)

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LWI COMMITTEES

Below is an LWI Committees list. It demonstrates the type of work LWI does and the amount of assistance it provides to its members. We encourage new members to get involved by joining a committee. If you wish to contact an LWI committee member to inquire about joining, click [here](#).

Academic Support

Charge: To recommend ways in which LWI can partner with ASP faculty to further LWI's mission. New for 2022-24: particular focus on examining the intersection between writing, research, and ASP as they relate to the NextGen Bar Exam.

Awards

Charge: To identify nominees and to assess and recommend to the Board the recipients of the Golden Pen, Courage, and Hecht awards.

Bench and Bar Outreach

Charge: To strategize and identify ways to better connect LWI with the practicing bar and bench; to explore greater collaboration with the bench and bar; and to position LWI as a resource for expertise for practitioners and judges.

Blackwell Award

Charge: To identify nominees and assess and recommend to the Board a recipient of the Blackwell Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Legal Writing.

Discipline-Building Working Group

Charge: To develop and support discipline-building projects, support scholarship by legal-writing professors, and encourage scholarly collaborations with the larger legal academy. To develop and support discipline-building projects.

Diversity and Inclusion

Charge: To foster and support diversity and inclusion in legal writing education by supporting legal writing faculty from historically excluded groups and by including a diversity of perspectives in the legal writing classroom.

Finance

Charge: To identify and manage items that impact the budget and finances of the organization.

Global Lawyering

Charge: To develop resources to improve global legal skills education of international law students studying in the US and promote global legal skills in US legal education.

LWI Lives

Charge: To produce and disseminate periodic newsletters exploring and communicating the emerging identity of LWI and its members.

LWI Scholarship Grants (Joint Committee with ALWD)

Charge: To mentor emerging scholars seeking scholarship grants and to assess and recommend to the ALWD and LWI Boards recipients of the joint scholarship grants.

Moot Court

Charge: To gather and disseminate information about moot court programs and competitions, including collection and coordination of lists of programs and

banks of moot court problems; to support the LWI Moot Court Advisors Handbook; and to foster more scholarship and presentations about topics relevant to moot court.

New Member Outreach

Charge: To welcome new members into the LWI community through such efforts as outreach activities at legal writing and other conferences to assist new members in identifying legal writing resources and finding ways to become more involved in service and leadership positions.

One-Day Workshops

Charge: To plan and organize the annual One-Day Workshops held in December of each year.

Pro Bono and Community Service

Charge: To identify and implement ways to foster faculty engagement with social justice concerns, including collaboration with bar associations, reshaping legal writing curricula around social justice themes, and supporting faculty pro bono work.

Professional Development and Outreach

Charge: To provide resources and mentoring activities to foster and support legal writing professors' professional development and leadership growth; to prepare a presentation proposal on this topic for the next LWI biennial.

Professional Status – Advice and Support

Charge: To serve as a resource for members facing specific employment or professional development issues.

Professional Status – Advocacy

Charge: To promote efforts to achieve equality of status and to support the interests of legal writing faculty and programs with regards to ABA Standards.

Public Relations and Social Media

Charge: To use social media to promote LWI and its mission to improve the teaching and quality of legal communication.

Additional charge: Explore strategies to use social media and other PR tools to raise LWI's profile among members of the bench and bar and position LWI with media sources as a source of expertise on issues in our discipline.

Scholarship Grants (Joint Committee with ALWD)

Charge: To mentor emerging scholars seeking scholarship grants and to assess and recommend to the ALWD and LWI Boards recipients of the joint scholarship grants.

Survey (Joint Committee with ALWD)

Charge: To conduct an annual survey of legal writing programs and to report the results to the membership.

Teaching Resources

Charge: To provide outreach and resources to foster and support the teaching of legal writing and support the LWI Teaching Bank.

Website and LWIC

Charge: To manage the LWIC community including maintaining the membership to LWIC, monitoring LWIC usage and policies, reminding users to observe LWIC policies (when necessary), and overseeing maintenance and updating of the LWI website.