



LegalWriting
institute

List of Candidates
Legal Writing Institute Board of Directors 2026-2030

The Legal Writing Institute (LWI) seeks to fill six positions on LWI's Board of Directors. This notice lists the candidates and explains the balloting procedures. A special membership meeting for the election of directors will be held electronically between March 16, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. ET on April 3, 2026. The ballot and instructions for electronic voting will be sent by March 16, 2026. You will select your six preferred candidates on the ballot. You need not rank them. LWI will announce the election results by posting the results on LWI's website.

LWI is especially interested in hardworking, creative, dedicated, dependable, and collaborative community members who will offer diverse perspectives. Elected candidates will begin serving a four-year term of office at the Board meeting held at the 2026 Biennial Conference. Those elected will join the following directors: President Brad Desnoyer (University Missouri-Kansas City); Immediate Past President Abby Predue (Wake Forest); Lori Johnson (UNLV); Robert Parrish (Emory); Nancy Soonpaa (Texas Tech); Jacob Carpenter (Marquette); Kristen Murray (Temple); Ellie Margolis (Temple) and Em Wright (Stetson). The President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Communications & Public Relations Officer will be elected to two-year terms by the incoming Board of Directors at the July meeting. Newly elected Board members may run for one or more of these officer positions.

Below is the list of candidates:

Candidate's Photo	Candidate's Information	Candidate's Personal Statement
	<p>Name: Heather Baxter School: Mercer University School of Law</p>	<p>I am running for re-election to the LWI Board of Directors so that I can continue serving a community that has shaped both my professional identity and my leadership. For nearly nineteen years, I have taught legal writing and worked alongside colleagues committed to elevating our field. Early in my career at Nova Southeastern University, I witnessed and helped navigate the transition of legal writing faculty from 405(c) contracts to a unitary tenure-track model. That experience underscored the importance of collective advocacy and the central role LWI plays in supporting legal writing faculty. I later served as Director of NSU's legal writing program for four years before joining Mercer University School of Law in 2025, another institution well known for its outstanding legal writing program.</p> <p>Since joining the LWI Board in 2022, I have served as the Board's Community and Public Relations Officer, with primary responsibility for LWI's social media presence. In that role, I launched LWI's accounts on LinkedIn, BlueSky, and Threads, and expanded our engagement on Facebook and Instagram. Before</p>

		<p>my election to the Board, I served on and chaired several LWI committees, including the Teaching Resources Committee, where I helped oversee the transition of the Idea Bank to the Teaching Bank on LWI’s website. I have also chaired the Blackwell Award Reception Committee and served on AALS-LWRR and ALWD committees.</p> <p>If re-elected, I would bring continuity, institutional knowledge, and sustained energy to the Board. I am committed to advancing conversations around faculty status issues and to continuing LWI’s work in building an inclusive community of support, scholarship, and service.</p>
	<p>Name: Elizabeth Berenguer School: Stetson University College of Law</p>	<p>I nominate myself, Elizabeth Berenguer, for a position on the LWI Board. For nearly two decades, I have been an active member of the Legal Writing Institute, serving on multiple committees and co-chairing several, most recently the 2024 LWI Biennial Programming Committee and the Sirico Scholars Workshop Committee for the 2024–2026 term. Through this sustained service, I have developed a deep appreciation for LWI’s mission and for the collaborative work required to advance it.</p>

		<p>I entered the legal academy in 2008 and am currently a tenured Professor of Law at Stetson University College of Law, where I also direct the Institute for the Advancement of Legal Communication. My career has been devoted to the study, teaching, and institutional development of legal writing. I have designed legal writing curricula at two institutions and bring a longitudinal perspective on the discipline—where it has been, where it is now, and where it will go.</p> <p>In addition to my academic work, I have significant experience serving on charter school boards, roles that required careful governance, financial oversight, regulatory compliance, and consensus-building among stakeholders with competing interests. These experiences strengthened my ability to think strategically, solve complex problems through innovation, and develop durable, inclusive systems that support organizational excellence.</p> <p>I am keenly aware of the challenges facing our discipline, including rapid technological change, threats to academic freedom, and persistent professional status concerns. As a Board member, I would bring energy, institutional knowledge,</p>
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		<p>and a collaborative/inclusive leadership style to help LWI navigate these challenges as it continues to support and elevate legal writing educators.</p> <p>I would be honored to serve LWI as a board member over the next four years.</p>
	<p>Name: Rachel Croskery-Roberts School: UC Irvine School of Law</p>	<p>I had the distinct pleasure of serving on the LWI Board earlier in my career, though it has been more than a decade since that term of service. It would be a true honor to return to service.</p> <p>I am currently the Associate Dean for Lawyering Skills at UC Irvine, a law school dedicated to public service and skills across the curriculum. I have been at UCI since 2011. Prior to that, I was a member of the Legal Practice Program faculty at Michigan Law School from 2002-2011, serving as the Associate Director of the Program from 2008-2011. I have seen firsthand the impact that LWI has had on advancing status and supporting members' professional development. The ALWD/LWI survey provided support in our efforts to transition to the clinical tenure track at Michigan. Further evidence of the changes brought about by the powerful work of these organizations is the extraordinary support lawyering skills faculty receive at UCI as equal partners</p>

		<p>with our clinical and casebook colleagues, something that would have been unheard of when I began my career.</p> <p>During my career, I have been deeply involved in LWI, ALWD, and the AALS Sections on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research (“LWRR”) and Teaching Methods. I have served on the Editorial Board for the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute. I also served on the LWI Board of Directors for four years, two as the Secretary. I chaired the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research from 2010-2011, and I served as the Chair of the AALS Teaching Methods section in 2011 and 2025. I completed my term as ALWD President in 2024.</p> <p>LWI’s work is critical to its members and the larger academy. I will work tirelessly, both in listening to our members and in supporting and advancing LWI’s mission.</p>
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Name: Adam Eckart
School: Suffolk
University Law School

I am running for re-election to the Board of LWI to continue the work I have been honored to do over the last four years. I believe that I can make lasting contributions as part of the Board for another term. In my first term on the Board, I served as liaison to several committees and co-chaired the 2026 and 2028 Biennial Site Selection committees.

I believe that my voice as an LGBTQ+ professor who has transactional practice experience and interest in AI brings unique perspective to the Board. I remain committed to being an invested member of the LWI Board, focused on thoughtful strategic planning and thoughtful governance of the organization. Serving on the Board has been both meaningful and energizing, and I remain deeply invested in supporting LWI's members and continuing to strengthen our organization's status in legal education and in our discipline. I hope to have the opportunity to continue serving and contributing to the Board's work in the years ahead.



Name: Joshua Jones
School: California
Western School of Law

Since 2019, I've been fortunate to have LWI as a source of support and as an organization to which I can share my strengths. Working with so many wonderful members on various committees, and now leading the Public Relations, Website, Social Media, and LWIC Committee has given me a deeper knowledge of LWI's camaraderie, drive to build a discipline across the industry, and what can be accomplished by an all volunteer organization when the mission is fundamental to our primary work tool. I hope that furthering my service on the Board will bring fresh views to leadership, shaped by my experiences inside and outside the organization, while continuing the good work and direction in which LWI already propels itself.



Name: Derek Kiernan-Johnson
School: University of Colorado

In my almost twenty years as a Legal Writing Professor, I've benefited greatly from LWI as an organization and a community. I've enjoyed working with others to plan and run national, regional, and specialty conferences, as well as regional and national workshops. Drawing on the expertise within LWI, I've helped my school's program transition from a directed to directorless program, secure partial and then full voting rights, and now advise

		<p>other schools seeking to do the same. I would be honored to continue serving the LWI community by joining the Board.</p>
	<p>Name: Sherri Lee Keene School: Georgetown Law</p>	<p>I am interested in serving on the Legal Writing Institute (LWI) Board because I am a proud member of this community and enjoy being of service to it. I believe that I can make an impact in this role given my twenty years of teaching legal writing and my long-standing engagement with LWI and its members.</p> <p>LWI has been an invaluable support to me, and I have consistently served this community because it has helped me so much throughout my career. When I started teaching full time and directing a legal writing program in 2008, I immediately turned to LWI's teaching and directing resources and attended my first LWI biennial conference. Later, I turned to this community as I began to write legal scholarship and participated in the Sirico Scholars' Workshop.</p> <p>In an effort to give back, I have been serving LWI for many years: I have helped plan numerous regional and national conferences, scholarly workshops, LWI-sponsored practitioner CLEs, and served as a Co-Chair of a LWI Biennial Conference. I also served</p>

		<p>on the Editorial Board of the Second Draft, a peer-reviewed publication of LWI. I have also contributed to the legal writing community at large by serving on the JALWD board, currently as a lead editor, and on the Discipline Building Working group, including in the role as the chair. Finally, I write and have presented about the impact of implicit bias on legal decision making and was a co-recipient of the inaugural ALWD Diversity Award for my scholarship, service, and mentorship of other scholars.</p> <p>I have a strong record of service and leadership in this community and would love to give back in a new capacity, as a member of the LWI board. I appreciate your support in this effort.</p>
	<p>Name: Sylvia Lett School: University of Arizona College of Law</p>	<p>Please accept my application to serve as a "director at large" for LWI. I am interested in this position because I'd like to continue my involvement with LWI after I roll off as one of the two inaugural Bench & Bar Committee Chairs this coming spring. The head of my LWRR Department is Susie Salmon, an LWI Past President. Through her service and mine, I have come to appreciate all that LWI offers to our legal academy. Serving in this new position would help me to</p>

		<p>stay involved in its important work. An added bonus is that it would allow me to continue meeting and collaborating with LWI's membership, who have already enlivened and enriched my curricula and life!</p>
	<p>Name: Susie Salmon School: University of Arizona College of Law</p>	<p>I would be honored to serve LWI and the legal writing community for a second term and to use the experience and knowledge I've gained as President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President to be a resource to other board members and the organization. LWI and the national legal writing community have made me a stronger scholar, teacher, and advocate, and I would so value the opportunity to continue giving back to those who have given so much to me.</p>
	<p>Name: Meghan Sholy-Wells School: University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law</p>	<p>I am seeking election to the Legal Writing Institute's Board of Directors because I share LWI's core belief that effective legal communication is essential to the wellbeing of society, the judicial system, and the legal profession. Since 2021, I have served as a legal writing instructor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, where I work daily with students on the practical skills that shape competent, ethical, and client-centered advocacy.</p>

		<p>LWI's commitment to supporting teaching and scholarly resources matches the work I value most: building strong learning experiences, exchanging concrete pedagogical tools, and advancing our collective understanding of how legal writers develop. I am especially interested in initiatives that help instructors translate theory into classroom-ready materials and support new and mid-career faculty. If elected, I would like to help with mentoring across career stages—helping newer faculty find practical guidance and community, supporting mid-career instructors as they refine pedagogy and scholarship, and ensuring that mentoring is accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the realities of the classroom.</p> <p>I would be honored to contribute to LWI's ongoing work and to support its members in elevating legal communication as a cornerstone of our profession.</p>
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Name: Amy Soled
School: Rutgers Law School
Email: amysoled@law.rutgers.edu

I would be honored to continue serving on the Board of the Legal Writing Institute. I am seeking reelection to the Board because I want to continue my active involvement with the Legal Writing Institute (“LWI”), an organization that has supported me both professionally and personally over the last two and a half decades. Currently, I serve as Secretary, and I have also served on the Grants-Scholarship Committee and the Committee on Committees. Additionally, I’ve represented the LWI on the ABA Law Library of Congress Standing Committee and as the SALT Board liaison.

I could not have accomplished these milestones or achieved my status and current title without LWI’s backing and commitment. LWI is an invaluable resource for the legal writing community, and I can think of no better way to spend my service time than continuing to work with the Board for the community. I’ll bring my energy, work ethic, passion, and experience to the position, a position that will enable me to continue to serve the legal writing community, a community of which I am proud to be a part.



Name: Rachel Stabler
School: Arizona State University

I have been a member of LWI since I began teaching legal writing in 2010, and its resources have been central to my development as a legal writing professor. I first found my footing as a presenter at the 2012 Biennial Conference in Palm Desert, California. LWI also helped me find my footing as a scholar when I participated in the 2013 LWI (now Sirico) Scholars' Workshop in Wisconsin. And throughout my career, I have relied on LWI's many resources, including the Teaching Bank, conferences, and listserv, for ideas to inform my teaching.

While I have benefited greatly from LWI's many resources, I've also believed it important to give back to the organization. I've served for multiple terms on both the New Members and Teaching Resources committees, including one term as a Co-Chair of the Teaching Resources Committee. This service, along with my work in related national organizations, has given me experience collaborating with colleagues across institutions, supporting faculty at different stages of their careers, and contributing to projects that further our shared goals.

I'm running for the board to continue my service to LWI. I've recently completed my term as the Chair of the AALS Section on

		<p>Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, and serving on the LWI Board feels like a natural next step in my ongoing commitment to the legal writing community. As a Board member, I would bring a steady, collaborative approach to supporting LWI's programs, resources, and long-term goals.</p>
	<p>Name: JoAnne Sweeny School: University of Louisville</p>	<p>I'd like to nominate JoAnne Sweeny, PhD, Wyatt Tarrant Combs Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Intellectual Life at the University of Louisville's Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, for election to the Legal Writing Institute Board of Directors.</p> <p>JoAnne is the kind of colleague who makes academic communities stronger simply by being part of them. She is a deeply engaged legal writing scholar and teacher who brings intellectual curiosity, generosity, and clarity to everything she does. Her scholarship, including her recent co-edited volume <i>Free Speech and Incitement in the Twenty-First Century</i>, reflects a sustained commitment to rhetoric, free expression, and the practical realities of teaching law in a complex and changing world. In her role as Associate Dean for Intellectual Life, JoAnne has shown what thoughtful academic leadership looks like. She builds scholarly community, mentors</p>

		<p>faculty across career stages, and creates space for innovative teaching and collaboration. Importantly for LWI, she understands both the day-to-day work of legal writing faculty and the institutional structures that shape that work. That perspective would be an enormous asset to the Board.</p> <p>Just as important as her credentials, JoAnne is a genuinely kind, collaborative, and reliable leader. She listens carefully, follows through, and approaches service with good humor and respect for others' time and ideas. She is someone people trust, and someone who makes shared governance feel meaningful rather than burdensome.</p> <p>JoAnne Sweeny would bring energy, wisdom, and heart to the LWI Board. I can think of few people better suited to help guide the organization in the years ahead, and I recommend her enthusiastically.</p>
	<p>Name: Carolyn Williams School: University of North Dakota School of Law</p>	<p>It has been an honor to serve on the Legal Writing Institute's Board of Directors for the past four years. During my first term, I have served as Treasurer, a role that allows me to support the Institute's mission by ensuring financial transparency, accountability, and stability. Each biennium, I work with the Board</p>

		<p>and committee chairs to develop and manage the budget, and with the President-Elect and Budget Co-Chair to plan the Biennial Conference budget. I maintain LWI's books in QuickBooks, prepare monthly financial reports, process payments, and collaborate with our accountants on tax filings, 1099s, and donor acknowledgments. I also track and manage LWI's contracts and renewals. In collaboration with the Board, the committees, our sponsors, and our membership, we diversified our income and hit our savings goals in the past four years. Beyond my work as Treasurer, I've served as Budget Co-Chair for both the 2022 and 2024 Biennial Conferences and as Board liaison to the brand new AI Committee and the One-Day Workshop Committee. I have served LWI on its Finance Committee, Biennial Grants Committee, and One-Day Workshops Committee, and I have hosted a One-Day Workshop as Site Coordinator. In 2024, I was honored to receive the LWI President's Distinguished Service Award.</p> <p>Above all, I've met and worked with so many of you who have become dear friends. I'm deeply committed to LWI's mission of advancing legal communication through scholarship,</p>
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		collaboration, and mentorship. I would welcome the opportunity to continue serving on the Board, helping to sustain LWI's programs and resources as we navigate new challenges and opportunities for the legal writing community.
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