

From 32:1 Second Draft (Spring 2019)



LegalWriting
institute

Dear LWI Colleagues,

I hope your spring semester is going well! As spring approaches and we bid farewell to snow and frigid temperatures, I am pleased to update you on what the Board and our organization have been up to since the biennial conference at Marquette.

LWI Standing Committee for all Publications

In July, the second meeting of representatives from all legal writing-related publications took place to discuss mutual issues of concern, including submissions, readership, and the challenges of publishing online. Out of that meeting came the establishment of the LWI Standing Committee for All Publications. The goal of the Committee is to help build the discipline and raise awareness of legal writing scholarship and our diverse publications. The Committee met again in January and is now in the process of working with our website developer to 1) analyze scholarship consumption based on visits to and downloads from our website, and 2) build an all-publications portal on the LWI website to increase and improve access to our scholarship.

HeinOnline agrees to host the Second Draft and LWI Lives

This fall, we reached an agreement with HeinOnline (at no cost) to host two of our publications, The Second Draft and LWI Lives. Although these issues have always been publicly accessible on our website, individual articles have not been searchable online, and we get frequent requests for back issues once the email that delivered them gets lost. All articles from previous and current issues of these publications became available at the end of January 2019.

Re-organization of LWI's teaching bank (formerly known as the Idea Bank)

1. **Access to the Teaching Bank is now more user friendly.**

Once you have logged in, you can access the Bank in two ways:

(a) Hover over your name in the top right corner of the website home page. You should see a dropdown menu with all the “folders” in the bank: syllabi, plagiarism, and all other teaching materials. This last folder contains all sample assignments, including memo and brief problems. You will also see a link here to submit a resource.

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(b) Hover over “Resources” on the navigation bar at the top of the home page. You should see a dropdown menu with links to resources for teachers, scholars, and practitioners. On the far left, you will see a link to “Teaching Bank.” This link takes you to the Teaching Bank Home page, where you can access all the folders listed above in (a).

2. Submit a sample assignment to the new folder for Social Justice/Pro Bono Assignments.

At the Pro Bono Committee’s request, we now have a new folder specifically for assignments that relate to social justice issues or pro bono-related work. You can expect to hear from that committee on the nature of the submissions they are seeking. Please stay tuned, and thanks to the Pro Bono Committee for this terrific idea.

3. Security glitch.

You may recall we had a security issue with the Teaching Bank at the beginning of the fall semester. Due to a glitch in automatic updates to our website, some materials in the Teaching Bank were not password-protected and appeared in Google searches. Brick Factory, our web developer, solved the problem quickly and worked with Google to remove those documents from its cache. A shout out to Jennifer Romig for notifying us right away so we could address the issue.

Board of Directors changes and new officer

Last spring, the Board decided that due to advances in technology, we no longer needed a host school to maintain records, receive mail, or engage in other administrative tasks involving physical documents. Without a host school, there was no longer the need for a Host School Director on the Board. We thank Mercer University School of Law and Sue PainterThorne for many years of service acting as our host school and Host School Director. In January, the Board created and filled a new Board position. Congratulations to Iselin Gambert, who will serve as our new Communications and Public Relations Officer. Iselin is currently a member of the Board of Directors and will serve in this new position until July 2020, when officer elections will be held again for 2020-2022. Iselin will be responsible for ensuring that LWI communications are uniform, consistent, and professional across all media. The Board is in the process of revising the by-laws to reflect these changes. Our current by-laws are now posted on the website under “About.”

Check out our website improvements

Slowly but surely, we are working to provide better and more current information to our members via the website. A few things you might notice:

- A new link to our by-laws under “About LWI.”
- A new FAQ page addressing frequently asked questions about membership, the listserv, and the Teaching Bank.
- An updated New Member Information Guide under Resources for Teachers
- A link to Café Press for legal writing-related gifts under Resources for Teachers
- A new link to information on our We Write Retreats under Conferences
- More photos of LWI-related events

Virtual water cooler

This fall, the Discipline Building Working Group launched its new initiative, the Virtual Water Cooler, to discuss online selected articles related to the discipline of legal writing. The first discussion in October 2018 was about Colin Jones article, *Unusual Citings: Some Thoughts on Legal Scholarship*, 11 J. Leg. Writing 377 (2005). The second discussion was in February 2019 about Donald R. Caster and Brian C. Howe’s article, *Taking a Mulligan: The Special Challenges of Narrative Creation in the Post-Conviction Context*, 76 Md. L. rev. 770 (2017). We hope you will join us for the next discussion! Check the listserv for details.

Upcoming events

As always, we have exciting events coming up in the next months. Be sure to mark these on your calendars:

- 2019 ALWD Biennial Conference: *A Time for Transformative Leadership: Teaching and Learning*, May 29-31, 2019, at Suffolk University Law School in Boston.
- Seventh Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, July 9-11, 2019, at the University of Colorado, Boulder and sponsored by the Legal Writing Institute, the Clinical Legal Education Association, and the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Scholarship Group.

- Selection of the 2019 Phelps Award winner. The call for nominations is due March 31, 2019. Information related to the call is on the website under Awards.

Best wishes for a great rest of the semester,

Sincerely,

LWI President
Kristen K. Tiscione

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