October 2018

Topics and Ideas

from past Applied Legal Storytelling Conference presentations

*This list is offered to help generate ideas for AppLS Conference proposals. Not all ideas are brand-new. Dialogue is encouraged—presentations that respond to other people’s ideas.

Lawyering:
- public interest lawyering and storytelling
- social justice storytelling
- storytelling in a specific area of law: its uses, specificities, and vagaries
- legal storytelling techniques in trial, appellate, ADR, contract, negotiation, legislative advocacy, law reform, or other and alternative settings
- specific storytelling elements under the microscope and their use in practice—generally, or in a particular area of law
- storytelling aspects across different types of legal communications
- modernizing the tools of legal storytelling (visuals, technology, social media, etc.)
- Implications of storytelling across the current issues of the day (examples: racial justice, immigration and refugee status, voting rights, disability laws, criminal system reform, prison reform, human rights, sexual and intimate partner violence)
- ethical considerations of legal storytelling to clients, other parties, fact finders

Scholarship or Interdisciplinary Theory and Applications:
- legal rhetoric and narrative theory (any aspect)
- the darker side of storytelling: logical fallacies, deception, distraction
- empirical research into the role of storytelling/narrative in the lawyering process
- stories as ways to enhance cognition and memory
- metaphors, storytelling, and language in specific areas of the law
- comparative storytelling models across different legal systems and different classes of clients
- imagined rewriting of legal stories using different voices or perspectives
**Teaching Strategies:**

- recognizing and addressing legal storytelling as an area important to teaching students client representation skills
- re-examining teaching of skills courses to deliberately include narrative reasoning
- teaching modules about storytelling or narrative theory
- teaching fact analysis as part of teaching legal analysis
- examinations of curricula that incorporate the use of stories to teach different areas of law
- designing case studies/simulations/case rounds to include discussions of storytelling skills
- borrowing storytelling techniques from other media

See also J. Christopher Rideout’s published Applied Legal Storytelling bibliography from 2015. There have been other books and articles published since that time, but this will give you a good foundation of scholarship that has emerged from previous storytelling conferences. [http://www.alwd.org/wp-content/uploads20151108-rideout_article2015.pdf](http://www.alwd.org/wp-content/uploads20151108-rideout_article2015.pdf)