



LegalWriting
institute



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/uploads/2015/11/08-rideout_article2015-pdf/