

Newsletter of the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research

On Teaching Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research: Past, Present, and Future

By Rachel Croskery-Roberts

Chair, AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research
University of Michigan School of Law

What an exciting time it is to be a professor of legal writing, reasoning, and research! As I finish my seventh year teaching in this field, I reflect on the world of legal writing I knew as a law student, the world I entered seven years ago as a (very green!) professor, and the world we inhabit now as scholars and teachers. We have come so far.



In my first year of teaching, a student asked me when I planned to leave my legal writing position to teach a “real” course. I remember patiently explaining that what I taught was real (that, in fact, what I taught was what lawyers actually do in practice), and that the career path I had chosen was as legitimate as the one chosen by

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my colleagues teaching case-book courses. The student probably thought he was complimenting me by indicating he thought I was capable of “more,” but I was offended that I had to defend my profession. Since that first year, I have seen students’ attitudes rapidly shifting. Two of my best former students have gone on to teach legal writing at Northwestern, and students are much

more likely to ask me how to get into the legal writing field than to ask me why I do what I do.

This change in attitude has come from more than just law students. Recent accreditation requirements and recommendations, from the ABA’s addition of more skills requirements to the publication of the *Carnegie Report*, the Second Edition of the *ABA Sourcebook on Legal Writing Programs*, and CLEA’s *Best Practices for Legal Education*, have affirmed our conviction that students must learn not only by engaging in theoretical analysis, but also by repeatedly doing what lawyers do. At the same time, as our field has become more and more professional, scholarship by legal writing teachers has become increasingly sophisticated and more highly regarded.

How did this happen? Most of the hard work was done long before I ever entered the scene. Oth-

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The Section's 2009 Program in San Diego:

Assessing Acts of Collaboration and Plagiarism and Exploring Techniques that Move Students from Forbidden to Good

The Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research presented a well-attended and well-received panel at the January 2009 AALS Annual Meeting.



By Lurene Contento
The John Marshall Law School— Chicago

The program, called “**Assessing Acts of Collaboration and Plagiarism,**” was a highly-interactive presentation by a diverse group of panelists and conference participants. It explored the proper use of resources and collaboration, the thorny issue of plagiarism, special

issues on ESL education, and ways for law schools and professors to help students avoid crossing boundaries that might lead to academic violations. Panelists addressed the topic from the perspectives of legal writing professors, clinicians, practitioners, and law school administrators.



The panel included writing specialists **Anne Enquist** (Seattle University School of Law) and **Elizabeth Fajans** (Brooklyn Law School);

writing center director **Lurene Contento** (The John Marshall Law School-Chicago); LWR professor and clinician **Meredith Schalick** (Rutgers-Camden); LWR professor and Wisconsin Court of Appeals staff attorney **Deborah Moritz** (University of Wisconsin); and LWR professor and Dean of Students **Cliff Zimmerman** (Northwestern University School of Law).

The presentation began with a video showing the plight of a 1L student seeking help on a writing assignment. Her use of several resources – includ-

ing her professor, her study group members, the school's writing specialist, and even her boyfriend – landed the 1L in the dean's office after a complaint by a fellow student. The video engendered a lively discussion between the panelists on whether the student violated academic integrity policies during her various acts of “collaboration.”

The panelists agreed that what is appropriate versus inappropriate largely depended on the expectations and goals of particular professors and the academic rules of each school. But the panelists did not agree on everything.



The conflicting expectations between academia and law practice emerged as the panel members discussed a scene involving the student and her boyfriend. The boyfriend (who was a paralegal) was reading over the student's brief, looking

for punctuation errors. He noticed that the brief contained a policy argument that he had suggested she use. The policy argument came from an associate at the boyfriend's firm, who had used it in a client's brief. While most of the panel members saw the student's use of the argument as a violation that included both plagiarism and wrongful collaboration, the clinician and practitioner found the behavior much less problematic – as this would be exactly the type of collaboration and use of resources encouraged in a law firm. In wrapping up the discussion of the video, the panelists suggested that we could best help students avoid academic violations by clearly defining goals and expectations for that assignment, course, professor, and school.

After the video discussion, audience members broke into small groups. They assessed potential collaboration and plagiarism problems in short, hypothetical scenarios. Another lively discussion ensued as participants reported the findings of their

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The Section's 2009 Luncheon in San Diego:

Presentation of the AALS Section Award to Richard Neumann

The AALS Section of Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research presents an award each year to a section member in recognition of contributions to the section and to the field of legal writing. It is the only award given by the section.

This year's recipient was Professor **Richard K. Neumann** (Hofstra University). He was introduced by Professor **Ralph Brill** (Chicago-Kent College of Law) and received a sustained standing ovation from the audience.

Professor Neumann was **also announced as the winner of the 2009 Burton Award**, which will be presented to him at a ceremony at the Library of Congress on June 15, 2009.



The Section's 2010 Program in New Orleans:

Teaching Law Students from Other Countries

The Section of Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research will present a joint program at the AALS Annual Meeting in New Orleans with the Section on Teaching Methods. The program topic will be "Teaching Law Students from Other Countries." The program is intended to assist (1) legal writing professors and other educators who teaching law students from other countries who are studying in the United States and (2) professors who teach in other countries.

The program will be in two parts. The first part will be a panel composed of two professors from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago (**Juli V. Campagna** and **Mark E. Wojcik**) and two professors from Northwestern University School of Law (**John Haberstroh** and **Elizabeth Inglehart**). Their panel presentation will be on "How Can We Improve the Ways We Teach and Test Foreign Law Students?"

The second part of the program will feature three additional presentations:

- **Leah M. Christensen** (Thomas Jefferson School of Law) will speak on Teaching Law in China: A Progressive Law Professor's Experience Teaching Comparative Negotiations to American and Chinese Law Students.
- **Brian K. Landsberg** and **Cary Bricker** (University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law) will speak on Training Chinese Law Professors in American Experiential Education Techniques.
- **Deborah B. McGregor** (Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis) will speak on Using Law School Examinations Not Only to Test But to Teach Our Students: Special Considerations for the International Student

The Section presentation will be part of the AALS Annual Meeting in January 2010 in New Orleans.

**Winner of the 2009 LWI/ALWD Thomas Blackwell Award:
*Linda H. Edwards***

Linda H. Edwards (University of Nevada at Las Vegas School of Law, previously of Mercer University School of Law) received the 2009 Blackwell Award, which is given to recognize outstanding contributions to the field of legal writing.

The award is given in memory of Thomas Blackwell, a professor at Appalachian State University who was killed by a disturbed student. Before his death, Professor Blackwell had been active in the Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Legal Writing Institute. His death shocked all of the academic community but most deeply touched the legal writing community.

The Blackwell Award was established as a joint award of both ALWD and LWI. The award is given to recognize a person who has made an outstanding contribution to improve the field of legal writing by demonstrating the ability to nurture and motivate students to excellence, a willingness to help other legal writing educators improve their teaching skills and legal writing programs, and an ability to create and integrate new ideas for teaching and motivating legal writing educators and students.

The first recipient of the Blackwell Award was Professor **Richard K. Neumann** of Hofstra University School of Law, who received the award in January 2003 in Washington D.C. during the AALS annual meeting. The tradition continued with awards in 2004 to **Pamela V. Lysaght** (University of Detroit Mercy School of Law), in 2005 to **Ralph Brill** (Chicago-Kent College of Law), in 2006 to **Mary**

Beth Beazley (The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law), and in 2007 to **Louis J. Sirico, Jr.** (Villanova). The Blackwell Award consists of a cash award of \$1000, a plaque, and a desk lamp. The lamp represents both the light Professor Blackwell shed on his students and colleagues, as well as his penchant for light bulb

jokes. Tom's widow, Lisa Blackwell, has often been present for the awards over the years and she has served on committee who selects the award recipient.

Professor Edwards was chosen for the award in recognition of her work in advancing legal writing scholarship by publishing books and articles on legal writing, mentoring other legal writing professors, and

discussing the role of legal writing scholarship at national conferences. She previously served Chair of the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research and has been an active member of the Legal Writing Institute. She was also a member of the ALWD Board and as a member of the ABA Committee on Communications Skills. Professor Edwards taught at Mercer Law School and this year joined the faculty at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

The Blackwell Award was presented at the New Children's Museum of San Diego, in conjunction with the Golden Pen Award. The evening also marked the launch of the Legal Writing Institute's 25th Anniversary. Pictured in the photo are (from left to right) **Judy Stinson** (President of the Association of Legal Writing Directors), **Linda Edwards**, and **Ruth Anne Robbins** (President of the Legal Writing Institute).



**Winner of the 2009 LWI Golden Pen Award:
*The National Association of Attorneys General***

The Legal Writing Institute established a “Golden Pen Award” in 2001 to recognize significant contributions that advance the cause of better legal writing. Contributions may take any form, such as promoting the use of clear language in public documents; producing outstanding scholarship or journalism about legal writing; producing exceptional writing in law practice; improving the quality of legal writing instruction; or advocating for better writing within the legal community. The award was intended for someone who is not an active member of LWI, but active LWI members can be considered in exceptional circumstances.

The first award was presented to **Arthur Levitt**, Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission. It recognized his leadership in requiring “plain language” for financial disclosure documents, which were previously considered one of the more difficult types of documents to rewrite. The award was presented at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and the “Golden Pen Award” became a new LWI tradition.

The Golden Pen was later presented to individuals who helped the legal writing community in various ways. The 2002 award went to **Dean Don Le Duc** of Thomas Cooley Law School for his long-standing support of legal writing programs and teachers. In 2003 it went to **Linda Greenhouse**, the Supreme Court Correspondent for the *New York Times*. The 2004 award went to **Judge Robert E. Keeton** of the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts for creating the Style Subcommittee that reviewed all of the federal court rules to sharpen their content. The 2005 award was given to Professor **Richard Wydick** of the University of California at Davis School of Law, author of *Plain English for Lawyers*. In 2006, the award went to **Joseph M. Williams**, author of *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace*.

In 2007, the recipients were the California Judicial Council and its Chair, **Chief Justice Ronald M. George**, the California Judicial Council’s Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions and its Chair, **Justice**

Carol A. Corrigan; and the California Judicial Council’s Committee on Civil Jury Instructions and its Chair, **Justice James D. Ward**. This was the first time that the Golden Pen had multiple recipients.

The 2008 Golden Pen Award was given to **Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert**, Senior Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

The 2009 Golden Pen Award went to the **National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)**, an organization founded in 1907 to help Attorneys General fulfill the responsibilities of their office and to assist in their delivery of high quality legal services to the states and territorial jurisdictions. To promote these goals, the NAAG sponsors the Supreme Court Best Briefs Awards, which recognize excellence in brief writing in the United States Supreme Court by state attorneys.

Accepting the 2009 Golden Pen Award on behalf of NAAG was **Dan Schweizer**, the project counsel for the NAAG Supreme Court Project, who is pictured here with **Ruth Anne Robbins** (Clinical Professor of Law at Rutgers-Camden and President of the Legal Writing Institute).



Recent Legal Writing Publications



Daniel L. Barnett, E. Joan Blum, and Jane Kent Gionfriddo (all of Boston College Law School) published *A Methodology for Mentoring Writing in Law Practice: Using Textual Clues to Provide Effective and Efficient Feedback*, 27 *Quinnipiac L. Rev.* 171 (2009).

E. Joan Blum (Boston College Law School) and Kathleen Elliott Vinson (Suffolk) published their article *Teaching in Practice: Legal Writing Faculty as Expert Writing Consultants to Law Firms*, 60 *MERCER L. REV.* 761 (2009).

Deborah E. Bouchous (Georgetown) has published a second edition the *Aspen Handbook for Legal Writers: A Practical Reference* (2d ed. 2009).



Christy DeSanctis (George Washington) and Michael Murray (Valparaiso) are publishing two books with Foundation Press: *Legal Writing and Analysis* and *Legal Research Methods*. Those books will be followed by two other books, *Advanced Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy: Trials, Appeals, and Moot Court*, and *Legal Research and Writing Across the Curriculum: Problems and Exercises*.



Anne M. Enquist (Seattle), published *Unlocking the Secrets of Highly Successful Legal Writing Students*, 82 *ST. JOHN'S L. REV.* 609 (2008).

Anne Enquist and Laurel Currie



Oates (Seattle), published the third edition of *Just Writing* and the second edition of *Just Research*.

Anne M. Enquist, John Mitchell, Marilyn Berger, Paula Lustbader, Lisa Brodoff, and Bryan Adamson have co-authored *Can the Professor Come Out and Play? Scholarship, Teaching, and the Theories of Play*, an article that will appear in the *Journal of Legal Education* (forthcoming 2009).

Shailini George and Stephanie Hartung (Suffolk) will publish their article, *Promoting In-Depth Analysis: A Three-Part Approach to Teaching Analogical Reasoning to Novice Legal Writers* in the *Cumberland Law Review*.



Peter Jan Honigsberg (San Francisco) will publish a new book, *Our Nation Unhinged: The Human Consequences of the War on Terror* (University of California Press 2009).

Richard K. Neumann, Jr. (Hofstra) published the sixth edition of *Legal Reasoning and Legal Writing* (Aspen 2009).

Kristen K. Robbins-Tiscione (Georgetown University Law Center) will publish *Rhetoric for Legal Writers: The Theory and Practice of Analysis and Persuasion* (West 2009).

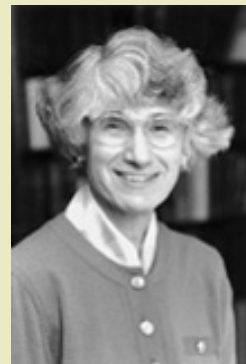


Kathryn Sampson (University of Arkansas-Fayetteville) has published *Nonprofit Risk; Nonprofit Insurance*, 2008 *ARK. L. NOTES* 83 (2008).

Helene Shapo (Northwestern University School

of Law) will publish a third edition of *Law School Without Fear* (Foundation Press), with her co-author Marshall Shapo.

David I.C. Thomson (Denver) has



The Section's 2009 Program on Collaboration and Plagiarism

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groups. Again, the theme seemed to be that if professors are clear on rules and expectations, students are less likely to land on the wrong side of them.

However, law professors are not the only ones who need to articulate clear rules. In concluding the presentation, **Dean Cliff Zimmerman** stated that law schools must educate students about the schools'



policies towards collaboration and plagiarism. Under today's cultural norms, he mentioned, students expect to succeed – no matter the means. They will use all resources at their disposal, but they may challenge those same resources if used by others. Schools need to develop clear policies about collaboration, plagiarism, and use of resources, and clearly communicate those policies to the students. Policies should be reinforced through programs and presentations in orientation programs and throughout a student's legal education. Policies must also be enforced consistently if they are to be effective. Last, professors and law schools should encourage students to think deeply about their ethical choices. As students and as lawyers, they will frequently need to assess boundaries and assess the appropriateness of their acts.

Attendees enthusiastically participated in the session from beginning to end. If the level of audience participation is any indication, these issues will continue to be discussed at upcoming conferences and at individual law schools. Already a number of schools have used the presentation video to engage professors and students in the discussion of assessing acts of collaboration and plagiarism.

Podcasts of the section program and other presentations at the AALS annual meeting are available on the website of the Association of American Law Schools at www.aals.org.

Articles and other submissions for the next issue of the section newsletter can be sent to

Prof. Mark E. Wojcik
The John Marshall Law School
315 S. Plymouth Court
Chicago, IL 60604
or by email to
7wojck@jmls.edu or
legalwritingprof@gmail.com



Mandatory Disclaimer

This newsletter is a forum for the exchange of views. Any opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Section or the Association of American Law Schools.

Past Issues of the Section Newsletter

Past issues of the newsletter are posted on the AALS website at www.aals.org. Click on "Services" and then "Sections" to find the link to the Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research.

Awards, Promotions, and Accomplishments



Mary Garvey Algero (Loyola-New Orleans) was named the Warren E. Mouledoux Distinguished Professor of Law at Loyola—New Orleans.

Tracy Bach (Vermont Law School) has been chosen as a **Fulbright Scholar in Senegal** for the

2009-10 academic year. She will teach at the law and political science faculty of the University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal and do research at its Research Center for



the Study and Documentation of African Legislation and Institutions (Centre de Recherche, d'Etude, et de Documentation sur les Institutions et les Législations Africaines - CREDILA). She will collaborate with Professor Ibrahim Ly, CREDILA's director, on exploring the intersections of Senegal's environmental and health laws, to understand their responsiveness to documented and predicted climate change impacts on sub-Saharan Africa.

Mary Beth Beazley (The Ohio State University) is chairing the **Communication Skills Committee of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar**. She is also president-elect of the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD).



Ken Chestek (Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis), pictured here at the LWI conference held in his home town, was chosen as the **President-Elect of the Legal Writing Institute**.



Beth Cohen (Western New England College School of Law) has been appointed the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Jason Cohen (Rutgers-Camden) was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor.

Lurene Contento (The John Marshall Law School—Chicago) was elected to the **Executive Committee** of the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research after chairing the section's 2009 program on plagiarism and unauthorized assistance on student papers at the 2009 AALS Annual Meeting. (See story on page 2 of this Newsletter.)



Christine Nero Coughlin (Wake Forest) received the **Joseph Branch Excellence in Teaching Award**, the top teaching award at Wake Forest. The award was established in 1985 in honor of North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Branch (a Wake Forest law graduate) and is given to recognize outstanding teaching and service to the legal profession.



Rachel E. Croskery-Roberts (The University of Michigan Law School) was elected as **Chair of the AALS Section of Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research**. She had previously served as Chair-Elect of the Section.



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Conferences and Events

The **Fourth Global Legal Skills Conference** will be held at **Georgetown University Law Center** in Washington, D.C. on **June 4-6, 2009**. The conference follows the first two conferences held at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago and the third conference held in Mexico at the Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey. For information about the program and registration, visit http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/international_law/2009/04/global-legal-skills-conference-iv-georgetown-university-law-center-june-46-2009.html.

The **Association of American Law Schools Workshop for Beginning Legal Writing Teachers** will be held on **June 20-12, 2009** in Washington D.C. Persons who are just starting out or teaching only a year or two should plan to attend. Visit the AALS website at www.aals.org for more information. If you're a director or a dean, you should plan to send your new legal writing faculty to this conference. There is also a **Workshop for New Law School Teachers on June 18-20, 2009**.



The **Burton Award** will be presented to **Professor Richard Neumann** in Washington DC at the **Library of Congress** on **June 15, 2009**.



APPEAL (Academics Promoting the Pedagogy of Effective Advocacy in Law) and the **University of Pretoria Faculty of Law** will host a conference on **"Promoting the Teaching of Legal**



Writing in Southern Africa on **July 1-4, 2009** in **Pretoria, South Africa**. The conference will focus on the development of curricula in legal writing for law fac-



ulties in Southern Africa, with particular emphasis on teaching large, undergraduate classes of students with a variety of backgrounds. More information at legalwritingconference.googlepages.com/2009pretoria conference or contact **Mimi Samuel** at msamuel@seattleu.edu

The **Seventh Biennial Conference of the Association of Legal Writing Directors** will be held **July 16-18, 2009**, at the **University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law**. For more information visit the ALWD Website at www.alwd.org.



The **John Marshall Law School** in Chicago, Illinois will hold a one-day conference on the **Change in Legal Education After the Carnegie Report**. The conference will be held on **July 29, 2009**, just prior to the annual meeting of the American Bar Association. The conference will examine legal education in light of the Carnegie Report. Contact Professor **Maureen Kordesh** at 7kordesh@jmls.edu for more information.



Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers will hold its annual luncheon and awards ceremony in Chicago on **August 1, 2009**. For more information contact Professor **Joseph Kimble** (kimblej@cooley.edu) or **Jane Siegel** (siegelj@cooley.edu) at Thomas M. Cooley Law School. You may also visit their website at www.scribes.org. Joe Kimble is pictured here (at last year's Scribes luncheon) with U.S. Supreme Court **Justice Antonin Scalia**, who is holding a copy of Joe's book.



Awards, Promotions, and Accomplishments
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Texas Tech Legal Practice Professors **Rosemary Dillon** and **Kim Phillips** were approved by the law faculty for long-term retention and promotion.



Diane Penneys Edelman (Villanova) was named Assistant Dean for International Programs at Villanova.

Linda H. Edwards (University of Nevada at Las Vegas, previously at Mercer University) received the **Thomas Blackwell Award** from the Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Legal Writing Institute at a ceremony held in San Diego during the AALS annual meeting. (See story on page 4).



Anne Enquist (Seattle University School of Law) was promoted to **Professor of Lawyering Skills.**

Greg Johnson (Vermont Law School) testified before the Vermont House and Senate Judiciary Committees in support of marriage equality. His testimony was quoted at length by the chair of the Senate Committee during the Senate floor debate. The legislature passed the proposed legislation, but it was vetoed by the governor of Vermont. The legislature overrode that veto, making same-sex marriage legal in Vermont.



Amy Langenfeld received tenure at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at **Arizona State University.**



The **Legal Writing Institute** launched the celebration of its **25th anniversary** in January at the ceremonies for the Blackwell Award and the Golden Pen Award. The event was held at the San Diego Children's



Museum, a location after it was learned that Doug Manchester, owner of the original AALS Annual Meeting conference hotel, had donated the money that put on the California ballot a measure to overturn a decision by the California Supreme Court allowing same-sex marriage in that state. The refusal of the LWI to hold its award event at the Manchester Grand Hyatt received national press attention and was thought to be part of the reason that the

AALS moved the annual meeting to a different hotel in San Diego, despite the logistical problems of moving such a large meeting with thousands of attendees. LWI President **Ruth Anne Robbins** spoke about LWI's actions during the opening plenary session of a full-day program held at the AALS Annual Meeting.

The Legal Writing Institute's celebration of its Silver anniversary will continue throughout this year (which marks the 25th anniversary of the first LWI



Conference) through the **2010 LWI Conference at Marco Island, Florida**, which will mark the 25th anniversary of establishing the LWI as an institute. The LWI conference will be held **June 27-30, 2010** (be sure to save those dates!).

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Awards, Promotions, and Accomplishments
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Christine Mooney was named as Assistant Dean for Legal Writing at Villanova.



Michael D. Murray accepted a tenure-track position as Associate Professor of Law at **Valparaiso University School of Law**.

Richard K. Neumann (Hofstra) received the **2009 Award from the Section on Legal Writing Reasoning and Research** at the AALS Annual Meeting in San Diego in January 2009. (See story and photo on page 3 of this newsletter). **On June 15, 2009, he will receive the Burton Award** at a special ceremony at the **Library of Congress** in Washington, D.C.



Anthony Niedwiecki (Nova) was elected to the city commission for Oakland Park in Ft. Lauderdale. Next year he will ascend to the office of Vice Mayor and then to Mayor.

Martha Pagliari (DePaul University) was named **Chair-Elect of the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning and Research**.



Sarah Ricks (Rutgers-Camden) was elected to the **American Law Institute** and was appointed to the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) by Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter. She was also promoted to Clinical Professor at Rutgers-Camden.



Sheila Rodriguez (Rutgers-Camden) was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor at Rutgers-Camden.



Mimi Samuel and Laurel Oates (Seattle University) traveled to **Afghanistan** where they observed a two-day conference on curriculum development. They then fa-



cilitated a two-day workshop on teaching methods. About 50 professors from the law and Sharia faculties at Afghani universities participated in the workshop, which featured lectures on research relating to teaching and learning, small-group exercises, large-group discussions and debates, and practice classes. The workshops were sponsored by USAID and the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project.



Louis J. Sirico, Jr. (Villanova) joined the happy group of former chairs of this AALS section when he finished his term in January 2009 and passed the section gavel to **Rachel Croskery-Roberts**. He will continue to serve on the section's executive committee.



Ruth Vance (Valparaiso University) was appointed to the **Communication Skills Committee of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar** for a two-year term beginning in January 2009. **Mary Beth Beazley** is the Chair of that Committee.

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ers toiled in the trenches, working tirelessly to try to achieve better status for legal writing professors and to grow and develop the profession from within. Thus, as teachers and scholars, we owe a great debt of gratitude to the countless legal writing professionals who came before us. Our professional growth (and that of coming generations of legal writing professionals) has only been possible because we work in a community of teachers who care deeply about students and about helping new professors grow and develop in this field.

Of course, there is more work to do. As we meet old challenges, new ones appear. For example, the American Law Deans' Association ("ALDA") has taken steps over the past few years to attack several key ABA accreditation standards providing protection to legal writing faculty. ALDA has taken direct aim at the interpretations in the standards for calculating student-faculty ratios as well as the job security provisions for clinicians and legal writing faculty found in Standards 405(c) and (d), respectively.

At the same time, the downturn in the economy has made skills training even more important to the law school curriculum. As law firms have announced that they will reduce the size of their summer programs and make fewer offers of permanent employment to those working as summer clerks, it is vital for law schools to produce confident, capable students able to hit the ground running when they reach the law firms.

Our most recent past chair, Lou Sirico, wrote a wonderful column in the spring 2008 AALS section newsletter encouraging us to reach out to our colleagues in other disciplines to share our expertise in teaching techniques and skills training. The mere fact that we can consider such an exercise shows just how far we have come.

Our work in AALS is one way in which we can share expertise with others. The program planned for the 2010 AALS Annual Meeting in New Orleans

promises to have broad appeal to diverse members of the legal academy. Specifically, our section has partnered with the Teaching Methods Section to present an exciting program entitled **Teaching Law to Students from Other Countries**. The program will consist of two panels. The first is *How Can We Improve the Ways We Teach and Test Foreign Law Students?* Panelists include **Juli Campagna (The John Marshall Law School-Chicago)**, **John Haberstroh (Northwestern University School of Law)**, **Elizabeth Inglehart (Northwestern University School of Law)**, and **Mark E. Wojcik (The John Marshall Law School-Chicago)**.

The second panel is composed of several shorter presentations. First, **Leah M. Christensen (Thomas Jefferson School of Law)** will present *Teaching Law in China:*

A Progressive Law Professor's Experience Teaching Comparative Negotiations to American and Chinese Law Students. Second, **Brian K. Landsberg and Cary Bricker (University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law)** will present *Training Chinese Law Professors in American Experiential Education Techniques*. Third, **Deborah B. McGregor (Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis)** will present *Using Law School Examinations Not Only to Test But to Teach Our Students: Special Considerations for the International Student*.

I am excited about the work being done by our colleagues. I am even more excited to share with the rest of the legal academy the collective expertise we possess in skills training and in teaching techniques, both areas that can and should be addressed across the law school curriculum.

Although there is certainly much more work for us to do, I envision a bright future for legal education, one in which students are given the best of both worlds – a rich understanding of theoretical concepts, backed up by a solid foundation of practical and analytical skills necessary to translate those theoretical concepts into effective lawyering. We have a key role to play in making that future a reality.

“... the downturn in the economy has made skills training even more important to the law school curriculum.”

Awards, Promotions, and Accomplishments

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Carol Wallinger (Rutgers-Camden) was awarded a 5-year presumptively renewable contract at Rutgers-Camden.

Mark E. Wojcik (The John Marshall Law School-Chicago) spent most of the 2008-09 academic year living in Italy

while on sabbatical from The John Marshall Law School. He also lectured at the University of Windsor in **Canada** and taught special courses in **Switzerland** (for Stetson University and for the University of Lucerne Faculty of Law) on International Organizations, including visits to the United Nations (see photo), the World Health Organization, the World



Trade Organization, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. He finished an eight-year term on the editorial board of the *International Law News* of the ABA Section of International Law and continued to serve as that section's Publication Officer. He was Co-Editor of the *International Law Year in Review*, which will be published in *The International Lawyer*. He serves on the Boards of the **Legal Writing Institute**, the **Illinois State Bar Association**, and the **International Law Students Association**. He was elected as **Secretary of the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research** (and also as **Secretary of the AALS Section on International**

Law). He became the editor of a multi-volume treatise on *Doing Business With Mexico*. He is a co-editor of the Legal Writing Prof Blog and the International Law Prof Blog. At the end of April and the beginning of May he will be **teaching statutory interpretation, international arbitration, and legal research in Egypt**. And during the summer he will be teaching at the **International Law Institute in Washington D.C.** and the **Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey in Mexico**.

Section Leadership

Section Chair (2009-2010)

Rachel E. Croskery-Roberts

The University of Michigan Law School

Phone: (734) 764-9336

E-mail: rcrosker@umich.edu



Chair-Elect Martha Pagliari

DePaul University

Phone: (312) 362-7304

E-mail: mpagliar@depaul.edu



Secretary (and Newsletter Editor)

Mark E. Wojcik

The John Marshall Law School-Chicago

Phone: (312) 987-2391

7wojcik@jmls.edu



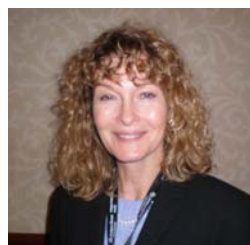
Executive Committee

Lurene Contento

The John Marshall Law School-Chicago

Phone: (312) 427-2737

E-mail: 9Content@jmls.edu



Louis J. Sirico, Jr.

(Immediate Past Section Chair)

Villanova University

Phone: (610) 519-7071

