

## **Legal Writing Scholarship – Concurrent Session**

*Scholarship about legal writing and by legal writing professors has exploded in recent years. This small group will explore ways to set a scholarly agenda, find funds and a mentor to support your scholarship, and find the time to complete the scholarship*

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### **I. Why do scholarship?\***

- Satisfy the requirements of the status you desire, or to improve your future status
- Get respect from colleagues at your school and at other law schools
- Develop relationships with other faculty at your school
- Practice what you teach
- Increase your salary through scholarship bonuses or higher base salary
- Showcase your expertise in research & writing and other areas
- Show initiative, serious desire, and the ability to be an “academic”
- Land speaking engagements & invitations to conferences
- Contribute ideas to the scholarly debate and advance the development of the law
- Enhance your teaching
- Expand your knowledge
- Add material to the courses you teach
- Enhance your analytical abilities
- Get pleasure of doing a difficult thing well
- Walk like a duck

### **II. Who should do scholarship?**

- Everyone who teaches
- But maybe not a big article in the first year of teaching
- Think carefully about writing co-authored articles if they count as less than ½ an article at your law school

### **III. What can you write about?**

- Many choices – legal writing scholarship or scholarship on other topics
  - Topics that interest you
  - Topics related to your prior practice
  - Topics related to the assignments in your legal writing course
  - Topics from your committee work, CLEs you’ve taught, or presentations you’ve given
  - Topics that involve circuit splits – review United States Law Week

- Topics currently before the United States Supreme Court.
- Note: about 75% of law review articles by LW faculty are on topics other than legal writing
- 4 major types of legal writing scholarship (from Edwards & Pollman)\*\*
  - Scholarship on the substance or doctrine of legal writing
  - Scholarship on the theory underlying that substance
  - Scholarship on the pedagogy used to teach that substance
  - Scholarship on the institutional choices that affect that teaching
- Learn to recycle an article for different audiences
- To see a list of scholarship by legal writing professors that Linda Edwards and Terry Pollman compiled, go to: <http://www.legalwritingscholarship.org>

#### **IV. Where can you publish?**

- Short pieces
  - *Second Draft* – newsletter of the Legal Writing Institute
  - *AALS Newsletter* – through our AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research
  - *The Law Teacher* – through the Institute for Law Teaching, Gonzaga Law School
  - Book reviews
- Mid-length pieces
  - *Perspectives*
  - *Scribes*
  - Bar journals
- Law reviews
  - *Legal Writing - Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*
  - *Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors* (JALWD)
  - General law reviews
  - Law reviews with a past interest in teaching and legal writing topics
    - Gonzaga
    - Mercer
    - Stetson

#### **V. When can you find time to write?**

- Consider starting small
- Carve out time during the summer, spring break, winter holidays, Fridays; an hour each day
- Set a regular writing schedule; treat writing like part of your job
- Establish a research agenda with a timeline and milestones

## VI. How can you get support for your scholarship?

- Financial Support
  - ALWD summer scholarship grants - \$5,000 and \$2,000 grants; check ALWD web site at [www.alwd.org](http://www.alwd.org) for application information
  - Your law school – ask your dean, dean of research, director, other faculty
  - Research assistants – perhaps in lieu of financial support
- Organized support
  - LWI Writers' Workshop – 1 week each summer; check LWI web site at [www.lwionline.org](http://www.lwionline.org)
  - Notre Dame Legal Discourse Colloquium – scholarship camp
- Peer Support
  - Get a scholarship mentor through ALWD or LWI
  - Find a scholarship buddy for mutual support
  - Join other new professors at your school
  - Review Linda Berger & Michael Smith's presentation material from the 2004 LWI conference, accessible at <http://www.lwionline.org/publications/bibliographies2004.asp#b>. This material provides resources and tips from many professors for conducting empirical research, research in other disciplines and research in legal doctrine.
- Other sources of support
  - Your former law professors
  - Others in the field
  - AALS section presenters in your area

## VII. Bibliography\*

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