

Wayne Schiess

University of Texas School of Law

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Experience

The University of Texas School of Law	1992-now
Senior Lecturer	2002-now
Director, David J. Beck Center for Legal Research, Writing, and Appellate Advocacy (Director of Legal Writing)	2004-2016
Baker Botts LLP, Dallas, Texas	1989-1992

Education

Cornell Law School, Ithaca, New York
Juris Doctor

Honors

Legal Writing Teacher of the Year Texas Law—Student Bar Association	2017, '15, '12
Drafter, Texas Pattern Jury Charges Plain Language Project A Center for Plain Language <i>ClearMark Award</i> finalist	2011
Featured Author, <i>Scribes Journal of Legal Writing</i> “Best of” series	2009
Honoree, <i>ABA Journal</i> Blawg 100 “The best Websites by lawyers for lawyers”	2007

Books

Plain Legal Writing: Do It (2019)

Fine Points for Legal Writing (2019)

Writing for Litigation (2d ed. 2019) (with Kamela Bridges)

Legal Writing Nerd: Be One (2018)

Writing for the Legal Audience (2d ed. 2014)

Better Legal Writing (2005)

Law Review Articles

Issue Statements—Different Kinds for Different Documents, 50 Washburn L.J. 341
(2011) (with Elana S. Einhorn)

Legal Writing is Not What It Should Be, 37 Southern U. L. Rev. 1 (2010)

Advice for Drafting a New NFL Collective Bargaining Agreement, 11 Tex. R. Ent. & Sports L. 205 (2010)

The Best of Wayne Schiess, 12 Scribes J. Legal Writing 123 (2008-2009)
Five short pieces reprinted for the Scribes “Best of” series

The Art of Consumer Drafting, 11 Scribes J. Legal Writing 1 (2007)

What Plain English Really Is, 9 Scribes J. Legal Writing 43 (2004)

What Transactional Drafters Should Know About Plain English, 39 Tex. J. Bus. Law 515 (2004)

Ethical Legal Writing, 21 The Review of Litigation 527 (2002)

Other Articles

Saxon Words and Romance Words, 98 Mich. B.J. 58 (July 2019)

Using Intensifiers is Literally a Crime, 96 Mich. B.J. 48 (Aug. 2017)

Editing for Concision, 65 Mich. B.J. 34 (Dec. 2016)

Achieving Clarity with Compound and Coordinate Modifiers, The Scrivener 5 (Fall 2016)

The Five-Pass Approach to Appellate Editing, 27 Appellate Advocate 41 (2015) (with Elana Einhorn)

Splitting Infinitives, Ending with Prepositions, and Beginning with But, 94 Mich. B.J. 46 (June 2015)

Bouncing and E-Bouncing: The End of the Citational Footnote? 26 The Appellate Advocate 409 (2014) (with Elana Einhorn)

Has Your Legal Writing Plateaued? The Young Lawyer 2 (Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012)

Write Like a Human—Not Like a Lawyer, Trial 30 (Apr. 2010) (with Kamela Bridges)

The Texas Pattern Jury Charges Plain-Language Project, 60 Clarity 23 (2008)

E-Mail Like a Lawyer, Student Lawyer 22 (May 2007)

Writing to the Trial Judge: Part 1—for Motions, 83 Mich. B.J. 54 (Jan. 2004)

Writing to the Trial Judge: Part 2—for Affidavits, 83 Mich. B.J. 44 (Feb. 2004)

The Five Principles of Legal Writing, 49 Practical Lawyer 11 (June 2003)

What to Do When a Student Says “My Boss Won't Let Me Write Like That,” 11 Perspectives: Teaching Leg. Res. & Writing 113 (Spring 2003)

How to Write for Trial Judges, 13 The Practical Litigator 41 (July 2002)

Write Effective Letters to Opposing Counsel, Trial 70 (June 2002)

Writing for Your Audience: The Client, 81 Mich. B.J. 50 (June 2002)

Dear Employer, Student Lawyer 27 (Oct. 2002)

Writing a Brief the George Orwell Way, 14 Appellate Advocate 6 (2001)

Meet ALWD: The New Citation Manual, 64 Tex. B.J. 911 (Oct. 2001)

When Your Boss Wants it the Old Way, 64 Tex. B.J. 124 (Feb. 2001); 80 Mich. B.J. 68 (June 2001)

The Bold Synopsis: A Way to Improve Your Motions, 63 Tex. B.J. 1030 (Dec. 2000)

Other Writing

LEGIBLE (blog) 2005-now
 40-time recipient, Texas Bar Today weekly top ten blog posts
 2007 *ABA Journal* “Blawg 100” honoree

Austin Lawyer magazine 2007-now
 Monthly column on legal writing

Selected Presentations

“How do I Teach Brief Writing If I Never Wrote a Brief?” University of Houston Law Center LWI One-Day Workshop, December 8, 2017

“Teaching the ‘Struggle’ in Legal Writing,” Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, Tucson, Arizona, March 19, 2016 (with Kimberly Holst)

“Should Briefs and Contracts Be Written in Plain English?” and “Truth or Myth: Law Students’ Legal Writing Abilities Have Declined or ‘Kids These Days Just Can’t Write!’” Legal Communication & Rhetoric Visiting Scholar, Arizona State University—Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, Nov. 7-8, 2013

The Highs and Lows of the Writing Consultant on the Texas Pattern Jury Charges Plain Language Project, Clarity/Scribes/Center for Plain Language Annual Conference, Washington D.C., May 22, 2012

How to Effectively Revise, Edit, and Use Form Contracts in Practice, ABA Business Law Section Spring Meeting, Denver, CO, April 22, 2010 (panelist)

Teaching Transactional Skills in First-Year Writing Courses, Teaching Drafting and Transactional Skills: The Basics and Beyond, Emory University School of Law, May 30, 2008 (panelist)

Texas Pattern Jury Charges Plain Language Project: The Drafting Consultant's View, Writing to Win: Plain Language Jury Instructions, Washburn University School of Law, April 8, 2008

Improving the Comprehension of Legal Language, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, July 8, 2006 (panelist)

The Art of Legal Writing, American University Washington College of Law, Third Annual Legal Rhetoric Symposium, D.C., April 8, 2005

Using Real-World Projects to Improve Students' Research Skills, Legal Writing Institute Conference, 2002 (panelist)

Selection, Training, and Supervision of Teaching Assistants in a Legal Writing Program, Legal Writing Institute Conference, 1994 (panelist)

Plain-English Consulting

Texas Pattern Jury Charges Plain-Language Revisions
2011 *ClearMark Award* Finalist, Center for Plain Language

Washington Mutual Bank
Mortgage disclosure documents

Jim Walter Homes, Inc.
Home-mortgage documents and construction contracts

Editing Positions

Editorial board, *The Second Draft* 2017-2020
Editor in Chief, Spring 2019, Spring 2020

Associate editor, *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing* 2001-2007

Assistant editor, *Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* 2005-2007

Memberships

State Bar of Texas

Austin Bar Association

Legal Writing Institute

Association of Legal Writing Directors