

# 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

*Writing for Litigation* (2d ed. 2020) (with Kamela Bridges)

*Plain Legal Writing: Do It* (2019)

*Fine Points for Legal Writing* (2019)

*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  
 48-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**

“Scaring Students: Using Real Cases to Reinforce Standards for Plagiarism, Rules, and Professionalism,” SMU Dedman School of Law LWI One-Day Workshop, Dec. 6, 2019

“How do I Teach Brief Writing If I Never Wrote a Brief?” University of Houston Law Center LWI One-Day Workshop, Dec. 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* 2018-2020  
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  
Board of Directors, 2020-2024

Association of Legal Writing Directors