

# Wayne Schiess

## University of Texas School of Law

727 E. Dean Keeton St., Austin, Texas 78705, 512-232-1333

[wschiess@law.utexas.edu](mailto:wschiess@law.utexas.edu) | [Legalwriting.net](http://Legalwriting.net) | [LEGIBLE](#) (blog) | [SSRN](#)

### Highlights

Legal Writing Institute Board of Directors	2020-
Editorial Board, <i>Journal of the Legal Writing Institute</i>	2020-
<i>LWI Lives</i> Committee	2021-
<i>Austin Lawyer</i> monthly column on legal writing	2007-
<i>LEGIBLE</i> blog	2005-
▪ 56-time recipient, <i>Texas Bar Today</i> Top Ten Posts	
▪ <i>ABA Journal</i> “Blawg 100” honoree	

### 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, J.D.	1989
--------------------------	------

### Honors

University of Texas School of Law Legal Writing Teacher of the Year	2017, '15, '12
Featured Author, <i>Scribes Journal of Legal Writing</i> “Best of” series	2009

### 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: 15 Topics for Advanced Legal Writers* (2005)

*The Legal memo: A Basic Guide* (2008)

## Articles

*Using Intensifiers: Is It “Literally” a Crime?* 84 Tex. B.J. 596 (July/August 2021)

*Graphics in Briefs: Why Not?* 92 The Advocate 8 (Fall 2020)

*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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*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)

*Ethical Legal Writing*, 21 Rev. Litig. 527 (2002)

*Writing a Brief the George Orwell Way*, 14 The 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)

### **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)

"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

### **Plain-English Consulting**

Texas Pattern Jury Charges

- *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

### **Memberships**

State Bar of Texas

Austin Bar Association

Legal Writing Institute

Association of Legal Writing Directors