

Wayne Schiess

University of Texas School of Law

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Experience

The University of Texas School of Law	1992-
▪ Senior Lecturer	2002-
▪ 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
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Books

Writing for Litigation, 3d ed. (2024) (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)

The Legal Memo: A Basic Guide (2008)

Better Legal Writing: 15 Topics for Advanced Legal Writers (2005)

Articles

Good Medicine Doesn't Have to Taste Bad, 20 Leg. Comm. & Rhetoric: JALWD 136 (2023) (reviewing Diana J. Simon, *The (Not Too Serious) Grammar, Punctuation, & Style Guide to Legal Writing* (2022))

Graphics in Briefs: Why Not? (Part 2) 101 Mich. B.J. 30 (June 2022)

Graphics in Briefs: Why Not? (Part 1) 101 Mich. B.J. 40 (May 2022)

- and 92 The Advocate 8 (Fall 2020)

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

- and 96 Mich. B.J. 48 (Aug. 2017)

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

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

Third Time Still Charms, 13 Leg. Comm. & Rhetoric: JALWD 249 (2016) (reviewing Tom Goldstein & Jethro K. Lieberman, *The Lawyer's Guide to Writing Well* (3d ed. 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)

- and 24 *Nebraska Lawyer* 41 (May/June 2021)

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

Featured Author, *Scribes Journal of Legal Writing* “Best of” series, 12 *Scribes J. Legal Writing* 123-67 (2009)

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)

- and 80 Mich. B.J. 68 (June 2001)

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

Academic Presentations

“Improving Legal Communication with Design Techniques,” SEALS Annual Conference, Boca Raton, Florida, July 27, 2023 (panelist)

“Client-Friendly Legal Writing: Injecting A Dash (or More) of Practice with Real-World Lawyers and Clients” LWI Biennial Conference, Georgetown University Law Center, July 21, 2022 (with Katherine T. Vukadin)

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

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

“Teaching the ‘Struggle’ in Legal Writing,” Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, 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,” ABA Business Law Section Spring Meeting, Denver, Colorado, 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, Washington D.C., July 8, 2006 (panelist)

“The Art of Legal Writing,” Third Annual Legal Rhetoric Symposium, American University Washington College of Law, April 8, 2005

“Using Real-World Projects to Improve Students’ Research Skills,” LWI Biennial Conference, University of Tennessee School of Law, June 1, 2002 (panelist)

“Critiquing Critiques,” LWI Biennial Conference, Seattle University School of Law, 1996 (with Christy Nisbett & Robin Meyer)

“Selection, Training, and Supervision of Teaching Assistants in a Legal Writing Program,” LWI Biennial Conference, University of Puget Sound School of Law 1994 (with Christy Nisbett & Robin Meyer)

Blog

LEGIBLE

2005-

- 56-time recipient, *Texas Bar Today* Top Ten Posts
- *ABA Journal* “Blawg 100” honoree

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

Editorial Positions

Editorial Board, *Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*

2020-2024

LWI Lives Committee

2020-2022

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

- Board of Directors

2020-2024

Association of Legal Writing Directors