

**Message from the AALS Section Chair:
Suzanne E. Rowe,
University of Oregon School of Law**



*Suzanne E. Rowe
University of Oregon
School of Law*

Thanks to the work of many dedicated colleagues, our Section has grown into one of the most dynamic in AALS. Our list of activities is impressive:

- ◆ Our programs are among the best attended at the AALS annual meetings, attracting a wide cross-section of

professors. About one-third of those who attended Professor Sophie Sparrow's panel on professionalism were not teachers of legal writing. (If you missed the meeting, a video of this excellent presentation is available at our website: www.law.pace.edu/aals.)

- ◆ Our Section has a lifetime achievement award to recognize the contributions of outstanding leaders in our discipline. This year, we recognized Professor Terri LeClercq of Texas.

- ◆ We sponsor a conference for new legal writing teachers every other year. The AALS conference alternates years with the Legal Writing Institute, ensuring that our newest colleagues are welcomed annually to our community and armed with the best practices in the field.

- ◆ Our newsletters – published online twice each year – are among the best in the AALS. They contain engaging stories, and they take full advantage of technology to link readers to important information.

- ◆ Our website – hosted by Pace University School of Law (thanks to Tom McDonnell) – is growing in content and design. It now offers a list of recent publications in our field, materials from our New Teachers Workshop, our newsletters, links to the websites of our sister organizations, and much more.

- ◆ Our Section participates in the high visibility poster presentations at the AALS annual meetings. This year

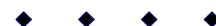
we sponsored three posters that attracted attention to important issues in legal writing: the participation of legal writing professors in faculty self-governance (Sue Liemer), law student evaluations (Judy Fischer), and student stress (Nancy Soonpaa).

The work of the Section has been done for years almost exclusively by the members of the executive committee. I applaud their work, and I am grateful for their contributions.

To continue at our current pace, we must expand the group of people working on behalf of the section. I asked in January for people to step up if they were willing to be part of a Section committee, and I was thrilled with the response. The volunteers represent a diverse group – new teachers and veterans from all types of programs and from schools across the country.

A list of the Section's committees, including the membership of each committee for this year, is posted on our website. The standing committees will select our program for the 2008 annual meeting, choose a recipient for our Section award, and review officer nominations to present a slate at the 2007 meeting. Other committees will review our by-laws for possible revision, expand and update our website, and select posters for display at the 2007 meeting.

Thank you to everyone who is contributing to the vitality of our Section. I am excited to see the results of your work.



Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Message from Suzanne Rowe | 1 |
| Terri LeClercq Receives Award | 2 |
| The Section's AALS Program | 3 |
| Section Posters at the AALS Meeting | 4 |
| Promotions and Moves | 5-6 |
| Noteworthy Accomplishments | 7 |
| Announcements | 8 |
| New Publications | 9 |
| Program Advancements | 10 |
| Committee Assignments | 11 |
| Q & A | 11 |

Thank You from New Orleans



Mary Garvey Algero

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all members of the legal writing community who expressed concern for those of us in the New Orleans area following Hurricane Katrina. Many people emailed offering such a wide range of things: housing, LR&W assignments and notes, books, a shoulder to cry on, prayers, and more. There was even a suggestion made at one point that people skip AALS in D.C. to travel to New Orleans and join in the clean up. The University of Houston law faculty gave us offices, classrooms, and the use of their conference area, and they opened up their writing clinic to our students. Many of you took in our students in your classrooms. Seeing the expressions of concern on the LWI listserv brought me to tears several times, and receiving offers of course materials from so many of you confirmed what we see time and time again—that this Section is the strongest Section of law professors around. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



January 2006 AALS Section Program Available on the Web

For those of you who missed the Annual Meeting Program in January, you can catch the webcast of our main program at any time here:

www.law.pace.edu/aals

Terri LeClercq Receives Award and Funds Award



Terri LeClercq

This year's recipient of the AALS Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research Section Award

Terri LeClercq is this year's recipient of the AALS Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research Section Award. Terri is the retiring Norman W. Black Professor in Ethical Communications Law at the University of Texas School of Law. She is the first writing specialist selected for the award. Terri's nominators cited her extensive publications, contributions to national organizations, and leadership in the field. Of particular note are her widely acclaimed books, *Expert Legal Writing* and *Guide to Legal Writing Style*, her important early work on the *Second Draft Newsletter*, recently her work on the Legal Writing Institute Journal editorial board, her widely cited efforts to combat plagiarism, and her extensive proselytizing on behalf of the legal writing field. From columns in bar journals, workshops for law review editors, to lively keynote addresses at national conferences, Terri has made an impact. One nominator summed it up by writing:

In many ways, then, Terri LeClercq embodies the spirit of the legal writing community. She is a hard-working, fun-loving, articulate, generous spirit. Her enthusiasm and vision have been important forces in legal writing for well over two decades now.

Terri has graciously offered the Section \$15,000 to fund a new "Courage Award," that would be given periodically to Section members who demonstrate courage in their work as or on behalf of teachers of Legal Writing and Research. The Fall issue of the newsletter will give more details.



AALS Program - Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research



Sophie Sparrow

How can we teach professionalism in a way that is respectful, honoring and humane?

Program Chair, Sophie Sparrow,
Franklin Pierce Law Center, Concord, NH
Visiting Professor, Phoenix International
School of Law 2005-06

What knowledge, skills and values are most important for new attorneys? Consider the following:

- ◆ Act honestly and with integrity
- ◆ Show reliability and willingness to accept responsibility
- ◆ Strive to provide competent, high-quality legal work for each client.

In 2005, 97-99% of the members of the Arizona bench and bar assessed these three as the most important attributes of a new attorney. These values ranked above all other skills, knowledge and values.

These results are not surprising; in the last decade, lawyers have been giving increased attention to professionalism. Given its importance, the Section's program this year focused on how to teach these important skills. Panelists Larry Krieger (Florida State), Laurie Morin (University of the District of Columbia), Pat Longan (Mercer) and Penny Willrich (Phoenix International) joined me in exploring different ways to teach and assess professionalism.

Borrowing from the medical profession, I referred to the work of David Stern, MD, PhD, University of Michigan Medical School, author of *MEASURING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALISM* (2005). Stern teaches professionalism based on the "Three 'E's": 1) Expectations; 2) Experiences; and 3) Evaluation. The first "E" – expectations, comes from naming what it is we mean by professionalism and naming our expectations of our students.

Experiences are created when students are placed in situations where they have to use professional judgment. Many students find it easy to "do the right thing" when they are discussing a hypothetical or participate in a simulation but it is different when students are in a high-pressure, high-stakes situation. The more opportunities students have to practice and receive feedback on their professional skills, the more prepared they will be upon graduation.

The final "E", evaluation, is critical. If students know that there is a consequence for acting professionally (they earn higher grades) or acting un-professionally (they earn lower grades) they can adjust their behavior accordingly.

Each of the four panelists provided different ways to teach professionalism to law students, and to do so respectfully. Building upon his empirical research on law student well being, Larry Krieger noted the need for professors and students to integrate values and authenticity. In his courses, Krieger openly discusses the pressures and stresses that lead to tension, irritation and dissatisfaction, and shows students how they can change their responses to the pressures of law school. Helping students reconnect to their intrinsic values leads them to accept themselves, help others and seek to be a part of a greater community. As Krieger and others have noted, people are more likely to show empathy, altruism and respect when they themselves feel safe, valued and respected.

Complementing Krieger's work, Laurie Morin discussed teaching professionalism in her clinical and doctrinal courses. Through the use of students' journals and discussions, Morin helps her students observe and develop their awareness of cultural differences. Especially in the clinical setting, Morin has many opportunities to observe her students' interactions and provide feedback.

(Continued on page 7)

The Legal Writing Posters at the AALS Conference

by *Judy Fischer*
University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law



Assistant Dean Sam Marcossan (Louisville) views Legal Writing posters.

The January 2006 AALS Conference included a poster display by members of the Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research. Poster displays are becoming common at conferences in other fields, and this year the AALS joined the trend by soliciting poster proposals from the various sections. Three proposals were chosen by our Section's executive committee: Sue Liemer's poster on participation in faculty self-governance, Nancy Soonpaa's poster on law student stress, and mine on student evaluations.

The maximum allowable poster size was three feet by four feet. The AALS offered suggestions on poster content and referred presenters to several websites on the subject. Some common suggestions are that a poster should be readable from three to four feet away, it should cover only a few points, some color will enhance the poster's attractiveness, and graphics are helpful. I found these suggestions valid and thought that some other sections' posters containing small print or a great deal of content were less effective. To create my poster, I obtained help from a law school secretary who knows Microsoft Publisher.

The AALS gave us detailed instructions on various ways to get the posters to the conference. A presenter could have the poster printed locally and mail it in a tube to the hotel; then Convention Handling Services would provide backing and materials for mounting the poster for \$28.50. I chose this method, but was disappointed to find that the "materials for mounting" consisted of thumbtacks. Other ways to transport

the posters included bringing a backed poster to the conference or transmitting a poster electronically to Convention Handling Services, to be mounted there. The AALS provided easels, which were set up in predetermined spots when we arrived.

The posters were on display throughout the conference, and each Section's presenters were assigned an hour to be present and answer questions. Our Section's posters implemented the conference theme of empirical scholarship and included a nice variety of content and style. We had a steady stream of observers during the assigned hour, with the traffic increasing when a conference session concluded. I noticed that some presenters had stools to sit on, and I would recommend those in the future.

Future presenters may also want to consider bringing a one-page handout and reprints of any relevant articles. I brought both, borrowed a chair to hold them, and gave out about fifty handouts and as many article reprints. I noticed that a presenter from another section had taped envelopes holding handouts to the bottom of her poster. Other presenters clipped business cards to their displays.

The posters came in a variety of sizes and styles. Some were vertical and some were horizontal in orientation. Some were pieced together, while others were printed on single sheets, which I thought looked better. The three posters from our section were of different sizes; future presenters might consider whether they like this diversity or would prefer more uniformity.

A poster presentation is an excellent way to raise the profile of legal writing in the academic community. Our Section should continue to take advantage of this opportunity.



Calendar of Events

Our AALS Section website will soon include a calendar of key legal writing dates, deadlines, and events at <http://www.law.pace.edu/aals/links.html>. Check it regularly to find out what's happening at the many national, regional, and local legal writing organizations.

To post additional items, please contact
Cynthia Adams, cmadams@iupui.edu.

Promotions and Moves

Angie Baker has been promoted to the position of Associate Dean of Students and Career Planning. (Photo Not Available)



Robin Boyle



Jay Facciolo

Beginning September 1, 2006, **Robin Boyle** and **Jay Facciolo** will be Professors of Legal Writing at St. John's University School of Law.

Patricia Grande Montana, Akilah Folami, Elyse Pepper, and **Robert Ruescher** will be Associate Professors of Legal Writing. These promotions come on the heels of the university's decision to provide for three ranks of Legal Writing professors (Assistant, Associate, and full Professor), each holding long term contracts.



Patricia Grande Montana



Akilah Folami



Elyse Pepper



Robert Ruescher



Sheri Buske

Sheri Buske has been promoted to Associate Director of Legal Analysis, Research, and Communication with a five year contract at the DePaul University College of Law.



David Carney



Peter Friedman

David Carney, Peter Friedman, Jonathan Gordon, and **Kathryn Mercer** have been promoted to Associate Professorships and have received long

term contracts at the Case Western School of Law.



Jonathan Gordon



Kathryn Mercer



Beth Cohen

Beth Cohen has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Law at the Western New England College School of Law.



Jason Cohen



Sarah Ricks



Carol Wallinger

Jason Cohen, Sarah Ricks, and **Carol Wallinger** have moved to long term contracts and 405(c) status at the Rutgers-Camden Law School.

Jennifer Cupar, Maureen Kenney, and **Carrie Seymour** have been promoted to Assistant Professor of Law with three year contracts at the Case School of Law. (Photos Not Available).



Elizabeth DeArmond

Elizabeth DeArmond is being promoted to Assistant Professor of Legal Research and Writing at the Chicago-Kent College of Law where she will be eligible for long term contracts that are indefinitely renewable.

Judy Fischer and **Susan Kosse** are moving to tenure track status at the University of Louisville.



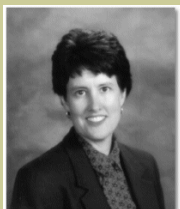
Judy Fischer



Susan Kosse

(Continued on page 6)

Promotions and Moves (cont.)



Sharon Foster

Sharon Foster has been given a tenure track appointment as Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas and will be teaching Contracts and other commercial courses.

Sandra Kerber and **Karin Mika** were unanimously voted five year appointments at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.



Sandra Kerber Karin Mika

Tonya Kowalski will be joining the Legal Research and Writing program at Washburn as an Associate Professor with full tenure-track status. (Photo Not Available)



Myra Orlen



Joceelyn Cuffee

Myra Orlen, Joceelyn Cuffee, Jeanne Kaiser, and Harris Freeman have been awarded provisional faculty appointments to newly-created professorships with long term contracts at Western New England.

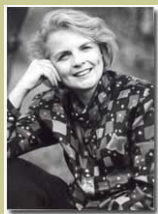


Jeanne Kaiser



Harris Freeman

Terry Phelps will be moving from Notre Dame to become Director of Legal Rhetoric and Writing at American University.



Terry Phelps

Pamela Lysaght has been promoted to Associate Professor of Law with tenure at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. (Photo Not Available)

Sheila Rodriguez is joining the Rutgers-Camden faculty as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Law. Sheila previously taught at the McGeorge School of Law and the Golden Gate University School of Law. (Photo Not Available)

Terry Seligmann is leaving the University of Arkansas to become Director of Legal Writing at the Drexel University College of Law.



Terry Seligmann



Vickie Rainwater

Vickie Rainwater has received tenure at the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. This year and next, she is serving as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Michael Smith is leaving the Mercer Law School to become full Professor and Director of Legal Writing at the University of Wyoming College of Law.

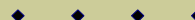


Michael Smith



Rachel Vorspan

Rachel Vorspan has been promoted to full Professor at Fordham.



Noteworthy Accomplishments

- ◆ To further educate her students at Buffalo, **Laura Reilly** wrote to Justices of the United States Supreme Court and judges of the New York Court of Appeals asking them to identify the one attribute of a good appellate argument whether in a brief or oral argument. She received replies from a number of members of both courts. She has shared her responses with her students, and we await the time when she publishes them in an article.
- ◆ **Sue Liemer** and **Nancy Soonpaa** continue to publish the Legal Writing Prof Blog <http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/legalwriting>.
- ◆ The Sixth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference took place at the University of Arizona on March 17-18. The many presenters included **Michael Dinnerstein, Julie Oseid, Leah Christensen, Maggie Barton, Lisa Bradley, Joe Hnylka, Lisa Mazzie Hatlen, Rebecca Blemborg, Melissa Greipp, Kirsten Davis, Laurie O'Neal, Deb McIntosh, Erik Ryberg, Ruth Anne Robbins, Ken Chestek, Richard Neumann, Stephanie Vaughan, Lance Long, Joel Schumm, Sarah Schrup, Jim Dimitri, Samantha Moppett, Kathleen Elliott Vinson, Kirsten Dauphinais, Becky Cochran, Susan Thrower, Myra Orlen, Suzanne King, Melody Daily, John Mollenkamp, Amy Montemarano, David Ritchie, Suzanne Rowe, Alison Julien, Lisa McElroy, Nancy Soonpaa, Susan Smith Bakhshian, Linda Edwards, Michael Higdon, Mike Koby, Maria Crist, Vicki VanAZandt, Susan Wawrose, Sheila Miller, Patricia Grande Montana, John Haberstroh, Sue Reinhart, Carol Wallinger, Judy Rosenbaum, and Jim Levy.**
- ◆ **Linda Fowler** has been voted evening program Teacher of the Year at the Southern University Law Center.
- ◆ **Ian Gallagher** has presented two papers this March at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and Humanities: “ ‘A Most Excellent Moral:’ What the Beggar’s Opera Can Tell Us About Law and Society in Early Eighteenth Century London,” and “Justice Scalia, Original Intent and The Eroica Symphony: A Musicojurisprudential Exploration in Sonata Form.” This summer, he is presenting at a conference sponsored by the Texas Wesleyan Law School and the University of Gloucester. The conference is entitled “ ‘Too Pure an Air:’ Law and the Quest for Freedom, Justice, and Equality.” Ian’s presentation is entitled “ ‘I’ll Bet You Won’t Read This in the Harvard Law Review:’ How America’s Strange Devotion to Bibliographic Orthodoxy Constricts Open, Free, and Equal Access to Its Laws.”
- ◆ **Mark Wojcik** has become a candidate for the office of Third Vice President of the Illinois State Bar Association. If elected, he would become President of the association in 2009. He would be the first law professor (and the first professor of any kind) to lead the association of more than 30,000 lawyers.
- ◆ **Sam Jacobsen** is teaching at the University of Sofia in Bulgaria as a Fulbright Scholar. She is also writing a book on fighting corruption with her co-author, Bulgarian law professor Maria Slavova.
- ◆ Last October, **Terry Godwin Phelps** spent two weeks in Mexico as the inaugural holder of the Padre Kino Chair in Faith and Culture at Universidad Iberoamericano.
- ◆ At Texas Wesleyan, **Vickie Rainwater** was named 2005 Teacher of the Year.

How can we teach professionalism in a way that is respectful, honoring and humane?

(Continued from page 3)

Rather than simply identifying what students could do to improve their professional skills, Morin challenges her students to see their interactions from the clients’ perspective and develop empathy for those they serve.

Developing many of the skills necessary to truly participate as a legal professional is the stated learning objective of Mercer’s innovative 3-credit course on professionalism. Pat Longan’s The Legal Profession course, required for all first year students, asks students not, “What will you *do*?” but “Who will you *be*?” as they enter the profession. Through a variety of readings, large and small group discussions, guest presentations, interviews, papers and a traditional exam, students explore the many meanings of what it means to be a professional and why it matters.

Presenting a different model, Penny Willrich discussed Phoenix International’s values infusion curriculum, where professors voluntarily assign themselves to teach different values in all required courses. This model is based on the idea that being a professional needs to be taught and assessed throughout the curriculum. Willrich also presented a concrete professionalism technique she uses during the first five minutes of her Lawyering Process classes — SYB, or “Share Your Baggage.” In that brief time, students voice complaints, fears and problems and are given the respect of being heard. “It doesn’t matter that we don’t solve their problems,” Willrich stated, “what matters is that the students name the problems and feel heard.” When students feel valued, they are more likely to value others.

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Nominations for 2007 AALS Section Secretary and Chair-Elect Sought

The Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research seeks nominations for two open offices for 2007. The Secretary prepares the AALS section newsletter, which is published twice annually. The Chair-Elect assists in Section functions and often serves on several of the Section's committees. The Chair-Elect automatically becomes the Chair of the Section the following year.

Nominations for Secretary and Chair-Elect should be sent to Susan Kosse, Chair-Elect, AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, by e-mail at susan.kosse@louisville.edu. The deadline is **November 30, 2006**.

Proposals for 2008 AALS Program Requested

The Section is also requesting proposals for the 2008 AALS Legal Writing Section Program, which will be presented at the AALS Annual meeting in January 2008 in New York. Samples of past program proposals are posted on the Section's website at <http://www.pace.edu/lawschool/aals/>. The executive committee considers a variety of factors, including whether the program would appeal to a wide audience at the AALS meeting. Program chairs are strongly encouraged to arrange to have the panel discussion published in a law journal.

Program proposals should be sent to Philip Meyer, the current Program Chair. Please send both a hard copy to Philip Meyer, Vermont Law School, PO Box 96, Chelsea Street, South Royalton, VT 05068 and an electronic version to pmeyer@vermontlaw.edu. The deadline is **November 30, 2006**.

Nominations Sought for Section's Legal Writing Award for 2007

The AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research seeks nominations for the Legal Writing Section Award for 2007. The award is made periodically to an individual who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the field of legal writing and research.

Past recipients include Terri LeClercq, Marilyn Walter, Laurel Curie Oates, Helene Shapo, Ralph Brill, Mary Lawrence, and Marjorie Rombauer.

Nominations should be sent by **November 1, 2006** to Suzanne Rowe, Chair, AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research by e-mail to srowe@law.uoregon.edu. Please include a short summary of the nominee's contributions.

AALS Call for Scholarly Papers

To encourage and recognize excellent legal scholarship and to broaden participation by new law teachers in the Annual Meeting program, the AALS is sponsoring its twenty-second annual Call for Scholarly Papers. Those who will have been full-time law teachers at an AALS member or fee-paid school for five years or fewer on July 1, 2006 are invited to submit a paper on a topic related to or concerning law. The deadline for submissions is **August 18, 2006**. Further details are available at http://aals.org.cnchost.com/events_2007scholarly.php.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Robin Boyle & Andrea Honigsfeld, "In Response to the Remarks by Lawrence H. Summers, Presenting Empirical Data on the Differences in Learning Styles Between Males and Females," 11 *Cardozo Women's Law Journal* 505 (Summer 2005).

Ian Gallagher, *A Form and Style Manual for Lawyers* (Carolina Academic Press); "Forty-Two: The Hitchhiker's Guide to Teaching Legal Research to the Google Generation," *Akron Law Review* (forthcoming); "Getting to Know You: Results From a Pilot Survey of Incoming Law Students" SSRN; "Let Us Take the Road: The Beggar's Opera and Its Criminal Law Context," in *John Gay's The Beggar's Opera: Cultural and Legal Background*20th Century Rewrites* to be published in Rodopi's *Internationale Forschungen zur Allgemeinen und Vergleichenden Literaturwissenschaft*.

Joe Kimble, *Lifting the Fog on Legalese: Essays on Plain Language* (Carolina Academic Press). The book collects many of the essays Joe has written over the last 15 years. Joe has had two local book signings, including one at Barnes & Noble.

Michael D. Murray & Christy H. DeSanctis, *Adversarial Legal Writing and Oral Argument; Appellate Advocacy and Moot Court, Legal Research Methods; Legal Research, Writing; and Analysis, Objective Legal Writing and Analysis* (Foundation Press).

Laurel Currie Oates, "Leveling the Playing Field: Helping Students Succeed by Helping Them to Read," 80 *St. John's Law Review* No. 1 (forthcoming).

Terry Phelps, *Shattered Voices: Language, Violence, and the Works of Truth Commissions* (Penn Press). The paperback edition will come out this Spring.

Mary Barnard Ray, *The Basics of Legal Writing* (Thomson/West).

Denise Riebe & Michael Hunter Schwartz, *Pass the Bar!* (Carolina Academic Press).

Mimi Samuel & Laurel Oates, "From Oppression to Outsourcing: New Opportunities for Uganda's Growing Number of Attorneys in Today's Flattening World," *Seattle Journal of Social Justice* (forthcoming).

Amy Sloan, "Foreword," 35 *University of Baltimore Law Review* 43 (2005); *Appellate Fruit Salad and Other Concepts: A Short Course in Appellate Process*, 35 *University of Baltimore Law Review* 45 (2005).

Melissa Weresh, *Legal Writing: Ethical and Professional Considerations* (LexisNexis).

Congratulations to all authors contributing to the Winter 2006 issue of *Perspectives*: **Samantha Moppett & Rick Buckingham, John Schunk, Mark Wojcik, Robin Boyle, Kenneth Adams, Diana Pratt, Gregory Colomb & Joe Williams, Anne Enquist, Joanne Dugan, Hollee Temple, Craig Smith, and Don Dunn.**

Congratulations to all contributors to Volume 11 of *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*: **Richard Wydick, Terry Pollman, Linda Edwards, Mary Lawrence, Kristin Gerdy, Jane Wise, Alison Craig, Cathaleen Roach, Mitch Nathanson, Colin Jones, David Caudill, and Terri LeClercq.**

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**Congratulations
to
Mary Beth
Beazley,
winner of the
Thomas Blackwell
Award.**

Program Advancements

- ◆ Legal Writing Faculty at Cleveland-Marshall are now eligible to receive summer research grants in the same amount as other faculty members. Legal Writing faculty are also eligible to receive summer teaching grants. Congratulations to new recipients **Janice Aitken, Brian Glassman, Claire May, and Karen Mika.**
- ◆ The faculty at the DePaul University College of Law has approved a required third semester of Legal Analysis, Research, and Communication.
- ◆ At Loyola-Los Angeles, Legal Writing professors in their second three-year contract now enjoy the title of “Clinical Professor,” as opposed to “Associate Clinical Professor.” Long term contracts are now changing from three-year terms to five-year terms.
- ◆ Oregon recently established the rank of Senior Instructor for Legal Research and Writing faculty. Promotion to the rank brings an increase in salary, longer contracts, and eligibility for sabbaticals.
- ◆ St. John’s University School of Law now has three ranks of Legal Writing Professors: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and full Professor. The maximum long term contract period for full Professor is seven years. Promotion to that level requires scholarship.
- ◆ Washburn University School of Law has just finished hiring for its newly revamped LAWR program: full tenure track status, associate professor titles, and full voting rights.
- ◆ The West Virginia University College of Law has established its Center for Professional Writing, staffed by a director who is an experienced teacher of English at the undergraduate level and a teaching assistant who is a law student proficient in drafting legal documents. The Center is open to all law students and is providing a series of weekly workshops reviewing the mechanics of writing.

Section Officers for the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research

Chair: *Suzanne Rowe, University of Oregon School of Law*

Chair-Elect: *Susan Hanley Kosse, University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law*

Secretary: *Louis Sirico, Villanova University School of Law*

Program Chair: *Philip Meyer, Vermont Law School*

Past Chair: *Jo Anne Durako, Stetson University College of Law*

This newsletter is a forum for the exchange of points of view. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Section and do not necessarily represent the position of the Association of American Law Schools.

AALS Committee Assignments for 2006

Award Committee —This committee will select the recipient of the Section's award from those people who are nominated.

CHAIR: Suzanne Rowe

Bill Chin, Scott Fruehwald, Susan Kosse, Lou Sirico, Kathy Vinson

By-laws Committee —This committee will review our bylaws and make suggestions for any needed revisions to the executive committee.

CHAIR: Dan Barnett

Cynthia Adams, Lyn Goering, Melissa Marlow

Nominating Committee —This committee will select from the people nominated for secretary and chair-elect the slate to present for election at our business meeting in San Francisco in 2007.

CHAIR: Susan Kosse

Kristen Dauphinas, Jo Anne Durako, Samantha Moppett, Suzanne Rowe

Poster Committee —This committee will select the posters to be displayed at the annual meeting in 2007. The members of the committee may also be asked to assist those chosen to display posters with the logistics of poster design or construction.

CHAIR: Ruth Anne Robbins

Tracy Bach, Tracey Banks Coan, Jim Levy, Sharon Pocock

Program Committee —This committee will select our 2008 annual meeting program from the numerous proposals we receive. This committee may also assist the program chair with the 2007 program if needed.

CHAIR: Phil Meyer

Molly Current, Susan Kosse, Sarah Ricks, Lou Sirico, Kathy Stanchi, Susan Thrower

Website Committee —This committee will continue to develop and update content for our Section's website.

CHAIR: Kristen Murray

Tom Cobb, Lisa Hatlen, Marc McAllister, Kate O'Neill

Q & A

The Question

Do you have an idea for a legal article that you would like to write? What would the article be about?

The Answers

I'm interested in how and why lawyers like to identify themselves as lawyers, and one article topic that popped into my mind today is investigating ways that lawyers identify themselves as lawyers when giving their name, say, at the end of an email, or in a letter. I've noticed that a lot of lawyers and law professors sign off an email with their initials, for instance; and some lawyers always identify themselves as "Esq." or "Attorney at Law." It would be interesting to research

such lawyerly appellations or sign-off quirks, and think about what they say about being a "lawyer."

Jessica Price, Marquette

Catherine Wasson and I have had the idea for several years of writing a fluff piece on the worst things students have said about their legal writing teachers.

Barbara Tyler, Cleveland-Marshall

I am interested in writing an article about the legal ramifications of the use and misuse of electronic communication (e-mail).

Nancy Wanderer, Maine