



Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research

Summer 2015 Edition

Inside this issue:

From the Chair	2
Programs	4
Legally Speaking	9
Call for Nominations	10
A Note from the Outreach Committee	11
Section Members Featured in AALS News	11
Section Committees	12
Section Leadership	13



Spring Newsletter Supplement Preview of the 2016 Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 6 – Sunday, January 10
New York, NY



From the Chair



Jennifer Murphy Romig
Emory

This supplemental newsletter announces the slate of programming from the Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research at the 2016 Annual Meeting in New York. Our purpose is to share the information as well as our excitement about these sessions, and make it easier to understand the logistics of the Annual Meeting. We hope to see AALS “veterans” there and welcome first-time attendees as well. With apologies for the clichéd language, this looks to be a jam-packed meeting.

For planning purposes, you can count on opportunities to learn and mingle with colleagues from the morning of January 6 until lunchtime on January 10. The basic outline of the 2016 Annual Meeting is this:

During the day on Wednesday, January 6, the Legal Writing Institute and Association of Legal Writing Directors will offer a Scholars and Scholarship Colloquium at Fordham University School of Law. Exact start time and other details are being worked out and will be shared on the LWI and ALWD listservs as well as our AALS Section listserv.

The evening of January 6 marks the formal opening of the 2016 Annual Meeting. Many law schools host their school receptions at conference hotels. Also the Thomas F. Blackwell Reception will be held that evening at 8 p.m. Location and other details are still being finalized and will be shared.

Full days of the AALS Annual Meeting run from January 7 – January 10, 2016. Our Section Luncheon and bestowal of the Section Award will take place January 7. Our Section plans three program offerings during that time on scholarly writing, curricular reform, and mindset plus other pedagogy issues. Check out the rest of the newsletter for details on these great programs.

Also we will hold a Section Business Meeting at a separate time from our Section programs, exact time to be set and announced later. We want to update you on a variety of Section initiatives and discuss the new extended AALS timeline for finalizing programs. (That’s the same timeline that has necessitated this supplemental newsletter after our regular newsletter earlier this spring!)

Throughout the Annual Meeting, our large and friendly Outreach Committee will offer a variety of coffee discussions and other gathering opportunities. To conclude the AALS meeting festivities, I am looking forward to the lunch and walking tour that will follow our Section’s morning program on curricular reform on Sunday, January 10.

Please check out the rest of this short newsletter for information about all of the above. On behalf of the Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, I hope to see you at the 2016 Annual Meeting in NYC.

All my best,
Jennifer Murphy Romig

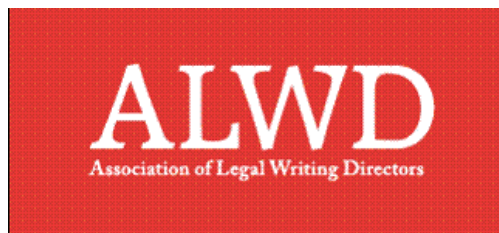
**The full program
for AALS 2016
can be found on
the AALS website
at [http://
www.aals.org/
am2016/](http://www.aals.org/am2016/)**

Save the Date January 6, 2016

Daytime:



On Wednesday, January 6, the Legal Writing Institute and Association of Legal Writing Directors will present the Scholars and Scholarship Colloquium. Fordham University School of Law will host this event at its new Skadden Center in Manhattan. The Workshop topic will involve the Feminist Jurisprudence Project. Please save the date and stay tuned for more specific information and on how to register for the Scholars and Scholarship Colloquium. The Colloquium will wrap up in the afternoon giving attendees time to attend AALS receptions at the AALS Annual Meeting hotels.



Evening:

The Legal Writing Institute and Association of Legal Writing Directors will host the Thomas F. Blackwell Award Reception on January 6 at 8 p.m. Additional details will be announced in September. The Committee is currently accepting nominations. Please submit your nomination for the Thomas F. Blackwell Award to Mary Algero (algero@loyno.edu) on or before July 1, 2015.

Honoring the life of Thomas F. Blackwell for his personal and professional qualities as a Legal Writing educator, the Legal Writing Institute and the Association of Legal Writing Directors give this award to recognize a person who has made an outstanding contribution to improve the field of Legal Writing

Eligibility:

Previous winners, members of the Blackwell Award Committee, and current and newly elected members of the LWI and ALWD governing boards are not eligible for this year's award.

Former Winners:

Richard Neumann (2003)

Pamela Lysaght (2004)

Ralph Brill (2005)

Mary Beth Beazley (2006)

Lou Sirico (2007)

Diana Pratt (2008)

Linda Edwards (2009)

Steve Johansen (2010)

Carol McCrehan Parker (2011)

Suzanne E. Rowe (2012)

Judy Stinson (2013)

Jan Levine (2014)

Helene Shapo (2015)

Best Practices for Supervising Seminar Papers and other Scholarly Writings

Date and Time: Thursday, January 7, 2016, 10:15—noon.

Program Description: To enhance students' ability to successfully complete their upper-level writing scholarly requirement, they may need additional instruction in scholarly writing. This session provides practical teaching tips for professors of seminar courses and faculty advisors of student journals.

Moderator: Kathy Stanchi – Temple University School of Law



Andrea Armstrong
Loyola New Orleans

The Presenters:

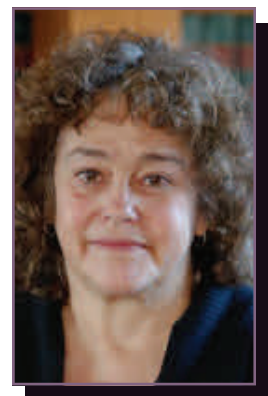
Andrea Armstrong – Loyola University New Orleans, College of Law

Professor Armstrong teaches a scholarly writing seminar for law review students. She will describe the objectives and methodologies she uses in her class to foster a collaborative student-run environment for critical academic writing.



Elizabeth Fajans – Brooklyn Law School

Author of “Scholarly Writing For Law Students.” Professor Fajans will present on the pre-writing stage of the seminar paper process: finding a scholarly topic and developing a thesis, that is identifying a problem in the law and creating a viable solution to the problem. Her presentation will include a PowerPoint slideshow.



Elizabeth Fajans
Brooklyn



Nancy Soonpaa
Texas Tech



Darby Dickerson
Texas Tech

Nancy Soonpaa and Darby Dickerson – Texas Tech University School of Law

Stand-alone instruction, in the form of workshops or a separate course, can be resource-intensive. One solution is to offer a series of videotaped lectures that address basic topics such as topic/thesis selection and research, developing an outline, and properly attributing via citation and footnoting.

Dean Dickerson and Professor Soonpaa will show three instructional videos that include faculty interviews. These clips include a broad-ranging discussion of writing and ethics by former members of Texas Tech's Honor Council.

This presentation will address new developments with the ABA standards and how to meet the faculty supervision requirement. They will also address adding a writing component to existing courses for additional optional credit.



Reimagining the Curriculum to Address Student Needs and Bench and Bar Demands

Date and Time: Sunday, January 10, 2016, 10:30 am—12:15 pm.

Program Description: This panel will aim to cover topics stemming from changes in teaching loads and law-practice demands. Requiring the appellate brief assignment in the first year of law school has been a practice for decades. Challenging this requirement, panelists can explore whether 1) shorter motion briefs would better prepare students for their early years in litigation practice; 2) requiring transactional skills would be appropriate when so many of our soon-to-be graduates land in corporate practice; and 3) changes in traditional assignments comport with evolving ABA standards.

Moderator: Melissa Weresh – Drake University Law School

The Presenters:



Andrew Carter
ASU

Andrew Carter – Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

Professor Carter will advocate “Let’s Not Reimagine Too Much!” Rather than frequent and shorter assignments, Professor Carter will take the view that writing an appellate brief can be valuable for first-year students, if we steer the LRW class into substantive learning experiences.

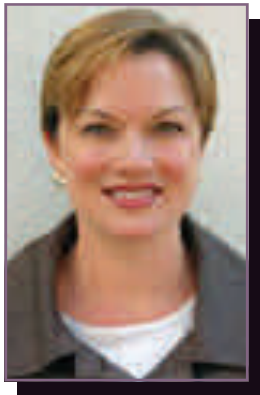


Anne Ralph – Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

Professor Ralph proposes that LRW professors design frequent, shorter writing assignments for the first year. With changes in litigation practice, such as the decrease in volume of civil trials and an increase in discovery and motion practice, there are benefits to adapting LRW assignments to changing realities. Cognitive science and learning theory support this approach.



Anne Ralph
Ohio State



Sara Rankin
Seattle



Nantiya Ruan
Denver

Sara Rankin – Seattle University School of Law, and **Nantiya Ruan** – Denver University, Sturm College of Law

Professors Rankin and Ruan will present on “The New 1L,” based on their recent book, which reimagines how we teach lawyering skills in the first-year curriculum. Can we teach first-year students to act and think like lawyers using real clients and current issues? Critical lawyering skills include interviewing clients, fact investigations, drafting pleadings, writing memos and briefs-- and all can be done within the context of first-year lawyering with clients.



Lawrence Rosenthal
Chapman

Lawrence Rosenthal – Chapman University, Fowler School of Law

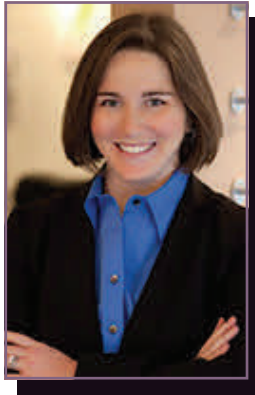
No law firm has separate doctrinal and skills departments. Professor Rosenthal will address "bridging the divide" by using problem-solving and client-centered exercises. He will draw upon examples from First Amendment, criminal law and civil rights classes.

What Every Law Professor Should Know About How Students Learn

Date and Time: Thursday, January 7, 2016, 3:30–4:45 pm.

Program Description: This panel will describe pedagogy techniques informed by current knowledge of cognitive science and student performance. Faculty and student knowledge about mindset can help new and experienced law teachers to improve student learning. Student performance can also be improved when teachers use team-based learning techniques and build their teaching around a meaningful vocabulary of legal analysis.

Moderator: Robin Boyle – St. John’s University School of Law



Anne Mullins
North Dakota

The Presenters:

Anne Mullins – North Dakota School of Law

Students working with Team-Based Learning techniques will become alive in the classroom! Professor Mullins will outline teamwork skills to enhance in-class learning. A sequence of steps will make collaborative learning effective. She will demonstrate a model of individual work, followed by teamwork, followed by feedback.

Terrill Pollman – UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law

In first-year classes, Legal Writing professors create language as they model analysis and teach through worked examples of the writing process. Professor Pollman will address building a useful vocabulary and examples-based learning in first-year classes and beyond.



Terrill Pollman
UNLV



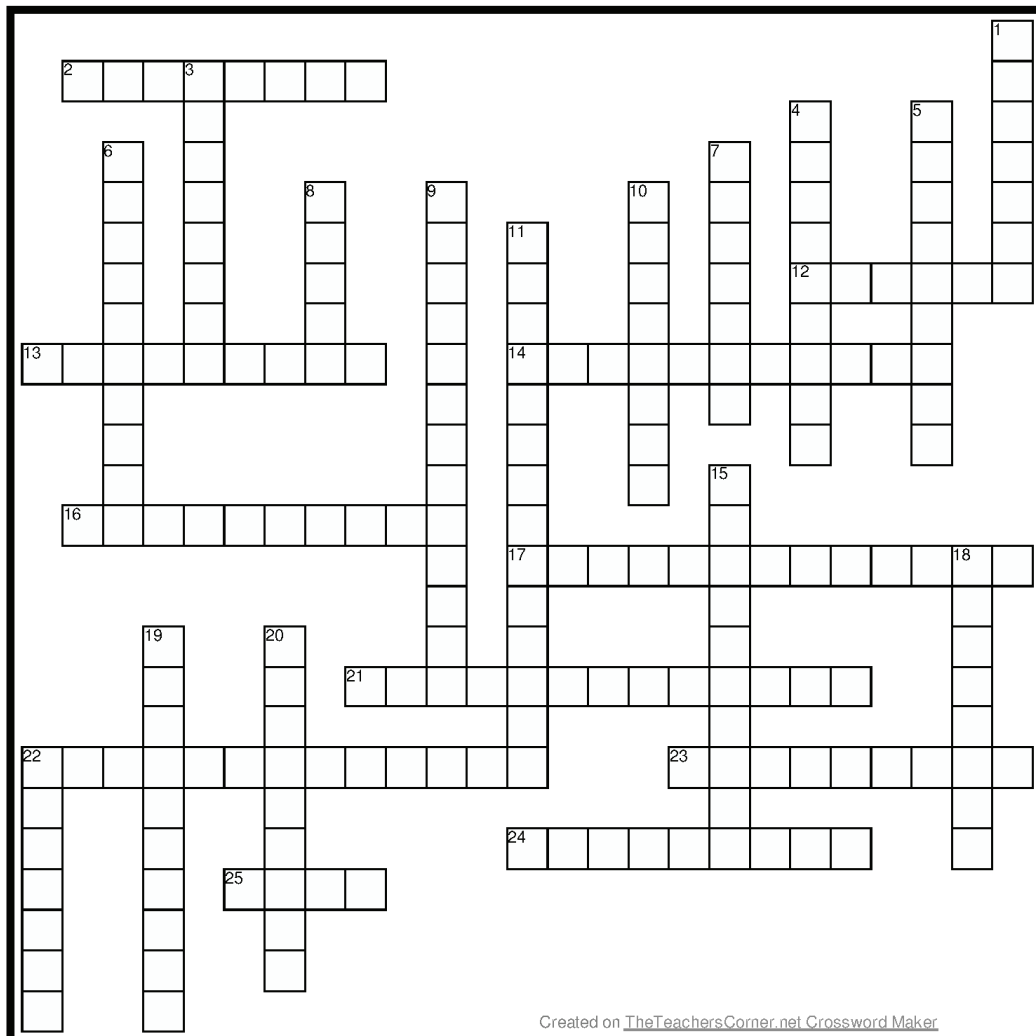
Carrie Sperling – University of Wisconsin Law School

Professor Sperling will present on how Growth Mindset can improve students’ performance.



Carrie Sperling
Univ. of Wisconsin

Legally Speaking



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

2. the business of an attorney
12. person who employs an attorney
13. claimant
14. students complete at end of course
16. document to summarize your analysis
17. TNR (3 words)
21. complete before writing memo (2 words)
22. signpost for reader in persuasive memo (2 words)
23. reference to earlier cases
24. developing a rule from multiple sources
25. Annual Conference

Down

1. audio file download
3. not plagiarism
4. opposite of persuasive
5. instructor
6. compelling
7. correct use of language in a document
8. summary of points in a document
9. spoken to a judge (2 words)
10. due date
11. incidental explanation when citing
15. meeting
18. course of reasoning
19. signals a writing change
20. the accused
22. client's dilemma

Answers on page 9

Call for Nominations

LWRR Section Award ***Start Thinking Now!***

Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of legal writing, reasoning, and research? At the AALS Annual Meeting in NYC in January, the LWRR Section plans to honor an individual for his or her service, scholarship, and legal-writing program design or other activity that has advanced the field of legal writing.

So, start thinking now about whom you would like to nominate for this prestigious award. The Section Chair will formally solicit nominations after the start of the fall semester.



Call for Nominations for Section Officers and Executive Committee

In the fall we will be accepting nominations for Section officers for the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research. We will be asking for nominations for the office of Secretary and for Executive Committee officers-at-large. You may nominate yourself and you may have others join with you in nominating someone, but the person you nominate should know that they are being nominated.

The Secretary produces multiple issues of our Section newsletter. The newsletters are to be completed in the spring following the annual meeting and the fall before the next annual meeting. The Secretary becomes Chair-Elect of the Section. The members of the Executive Committee assist the Section officers and serve as liaisons to the Section's committees.

The Nominations Committee will review the submissions and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. That Committee will nominate a slate of officers for approval at the Section's Business Meeting.

A Note from the Outreach Committee

We look forward to reaching out to Section members at the Meeting. We plan on offering a welcome coffee on Jan. 6 for all Section members, with orientation to the conference.

On January 7, another welcome coffee, this one geared to new Section members. We will talk about Section activities, as well as offering new members mentors if so desired. We also welcome Section members arriving to the conference on January 7.

On January 8, we will offer an informal breakfast on the theme: "Global Legal Skills: A Growing Interest of our Section."

We are working on potential meet-ups on January 9 to complement other programming likely to be of interest to our Section members.

On January 10, an afternoon walking tour of a New York City neighborhood is offered. Family and friends are invited.

Cathren Koehlert, Howard Bromberg, Co-chairs



Section Members Featured in April AALS News

The AALS News as a whole featured two members of the Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research. Jarrod Reich of Georgetown is mentioned as a panelist on "Pedagogy Promoting Practice-Ready Students." And Debbie Borman of Northwestern is interviewed for the story "Law Students and Ethical Development: Ideas for Teaching Professional Identity." The newsletter can be accessed here: [https://www.aals.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/AALS Newsletter Apr2015.pdf](https://www.aals.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/AALS_Newsletter_Apr2015.pdf)

That newsletter also features changes to the AALS process for Sections to set their programs. Anyone interested in becoming involved in the Section may want to read "AALS Unveils New Approach to Sections" on page 14.

LWRR Section Committees

Below is an updated list of the Officers and Executive Committee Members of the Legal Writing, Reasoning and Research Section.

Awards Committee

Rita Barnett	Chapman
Lurene Contento	John Marshall
Janet Dickson	Seattle
Eric Easton	Baltimore
Lyn Entrikin Goering	Washburn

Committee on Committees

Jessica Clark	George Washington
Anne Mullins	North Dakota
Jennifer Rosa	Michigan
Suzanne Rowe	Oregon

Program Committee

Mary Beth Beazley	Ohio State
Robin Boyle Laisure	St. John's
Joe Mastro Simone	Washburn
Susan McMahon	Georgetown
Samantha Moppett	Suffolk

Nominations Committee

Suzanna Moran	Sturm
Lou Sirico	Villanova
Mark Wojcik	John Marshall
Kathleen Elliott Vinson	Suffolk

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Janice Baker	South Carolina
Hillary Burgess	Charlotte
Paige Canfield	St. Louis
Lee Carpenter	Temple
Rachel Croskery-Roberts	Cal. Irvine
Kirsten Davis	Stetson
Catherine Finn	George Washington
Ann M. Killenbeck	Arkansas
Katrina Lee	Ohio State
Victoria Lowery	Mississippi
Estelle McKee	Cornell
Teri McMurtry-Chubb	Mercer
Chantal Morton	Melbourne
Nicole Negoweti	Valparaiso
Michael Oeser	Valparaiso
Roma Perez	Nova
Shakira Pleasant	Savannah
Susan Salmon	Arizona
Saleema Snow	D.C.

Outreach Committee

Howard Bromberg	Michigan
Aimee Dudovitz	Loyola, Los Angeles
Joe Fore	Virginia
Rebekah Hanley	Oregon
Marueen Johnson	Loyola, Los Angeles
Cathren Koehlert	Barry
Katherine Lyons	Loyola, Los Angeles
Cathren Page	Barry
Abigail Patthoff	Chapman
Carol Pauli	Texas A&M
Susan Salmon	Arizona

LWRR Section Leadership

Officers

Chair

Jennifer Murphy Romig
Emory University School of Law
jromig@emory.edu



Chair Elect

Bob Brain
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
bob.brain@lls.edu



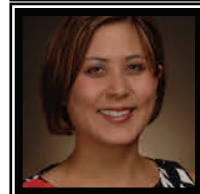
Secretary

Sabrina DeFabritiis
Suffolk University Law School
sdefabritiis@suffolk.edu



Past Chair

Kimberly Y.W. Holst
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University
kimberly.holst@asu.edu



Executive Committee Members

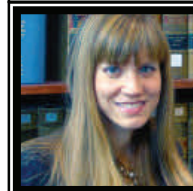
Mary Garvey Algero
College of Law, Loyola University New Orleans
algero@loyno.edu



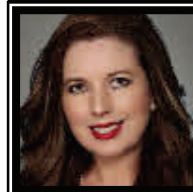
Grace Hum
University of San Francisco
ghum@usfca.edu



Lucy Jewel
University of Tennessee
ljewel@utk.edu



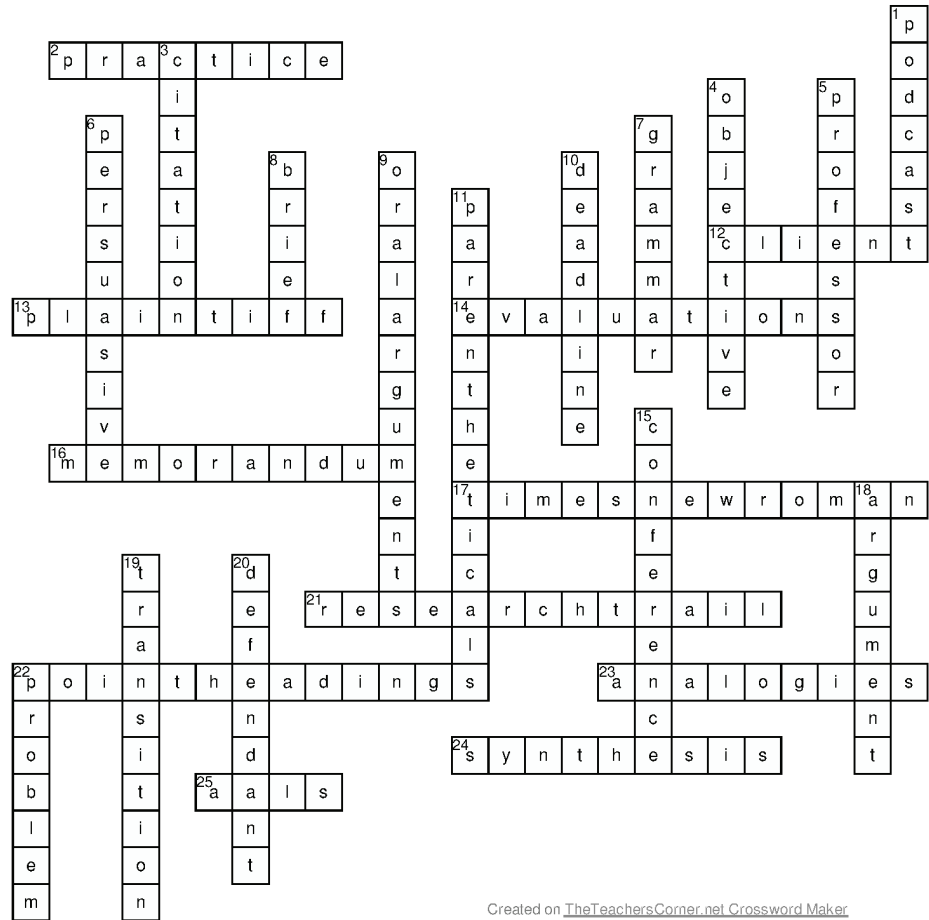
Wendy Adele Humphrey
Texas Tech University School of Law
Wendy.humphrey@ttu.edu



Legally Speaking - Answers

AALS SECTION ON
LEGAL WRITING,
REASONING, AND
RESEARCH

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