

Wayne Schiess

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Experience

The University of Texas School of Law

- Senior Lecturer 2002-
- Director, David J. Beck Center for Legal Research, Writing, and Appellate Advocacy (Director of Legal Writing) 2004-2016
- Lecturer 1992-2002

Baker Botts LLP, Dallas, Texas

1989-1992

Education

Cornell Law School, J.D.

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)

Column

Austin Lawyer magazine, monthly column on legal writing

2007-2023

Articles

Readable Contracts (Part 2), 103 Mich. B.J. 34-36 (July/August 2024)

Readable Contracts (Part 1), 103 Mich. B.J. 32-34 (June 2024)

Good Medicine Doesn't Have to Taste Bad, 20 Leg. Comm. & Rhetoric: JALWD 135 (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, 95 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)

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

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

“Scholarly Identity” Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, IU McKinney School of Law, July 18, 2024 (panelist)

“So You Want to Write But Fear, Procrastination, and/or Lack of Time are Holding you Back? It’s Time to Dive In!” Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, IU McKinney School of Law, July 17, 2024 (with Diana Simon)

“Meet the Editors: A Conversation About Writing & Publishing,” Lone Star Legal Writing Conference, University of Houston Law Center, April 5, 2024 (with Irene Ten Cate & Katherine Vukadin)

“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 2007

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