

The Legal Writing Institute

The Legal Writing Institute (LWI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving legal writing by providing a forum for discussion and scholarship about legal writing, analysis, and research. LWI promotes these activities through its publications, workshops, specialty conferences, and the national biennial conferences held in even-numbered years.



The Legal Writing Institute and the Michigan State University College of Law
Research, Writing, and Advocacy Program Present

STUDENT POPULATIONS: DIVERSITY MATTERS

With special thanks to the MSU College of Law
Diversity Services Office for its support.

December 7, 2012

Michigan State University College of Law
East Lansing, Michigan



LegalWriting
institute

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW

Schedule of Events

Friday, December 7, 2012

- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome**
Dean Joan W. Howarth, Michigan State University College of Law
- 9:30 a.m. **Teaching to Students with Varying Cultural & Ethnic Backgrounds**
Moderator: *Nancy Costello*, Michigan State University College of Law
Bruce Ching, Michigan State University College of Law
Matthew Fletcher, Michigan State University College of Law
Marilyn Preston, University of Toledo College of Law
Pam Wilkins, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
- 10:45 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00 a.m. **Teaching to Foreign Students**
Moderator: *Paul Stokstad*, Michigan State University College of Law
Chris Evers, Qatar University College of Law
Jeremy Francis, Michigan State University College of Law
Diane Kraft, University of Kentucky College of Law
Stephanie LaRose, Michigan State University College of Law
Karen Shaw, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:45 p.m. **Teaching to Lower and Higher Performing Students
in the Same Classroom**
Moderator: *Gary Gulliver*, Michigan State University College of Law
Ted Becker, University of Michigan Law School
Jessica Levesque, MacCormac College
Pamela Morgan, MacCormac College
- 3:15 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 p.m. **Teaching to Students with Emotional Disabilities**
Moderator: *Deanne Lawrence*, Michigan State University College of Law
Jan Collins-Eaglin, Michigan State University
Rence Craig, Michigan State University

About the Speakers

Ted Becker

Associate Director of the Legal Practice Program
University of Michigan Law School

Before joining the Michigan faculty as a clinical assistant professor in 2000, Professor Becker was an adjunct professor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School and practiced with Dickinson Wright in Lansing, Michigan. He teaches the Legal Practice I & II, Legal Practice Skills, and Transactional Drafting courses at The University of Michigan Law School.

Bruce Ching

Assistant Clinical Professor of Law
Michigan State University College of Law

Professor Ching worked as a staff attorney for the national office of United Auto Workers Legal Services Plans, advising and assisting the employer-funded organization's offices throughout the country. He also previously clerked for the Michigan Court of Appeals and for a trial judge in Detroit. As a law student, he served as a staff member for the University of Michigan *Journal of Law Reform*. He earlier received his master's degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Michigan and then performed editorial work at a reference book publishing company.

Before coming to MSU Law, Ching taught legal writing courses at several law schools. He also taught English for a year at Central China Normal University in Wuhan, the People's Republic of China. His research interests include constitutional issues, professional responsibility concerns, and narrative and rhetorical aspects of law.

Jan Collins-Eaglin

Director for Counseling and Psychological Services
Michigan State University

Dr. Collins-Eaglin is the director of the Michigan State University Counseling Center. She came to Michigan State University from Wayne State University where she directed Student Support Services, which included Counseling and Psychological Services, Educational Accessibility Services, and the Academic Success Center. In both centers, Collins-Eaglin has successfully

secured federal grants to address relationship violence on campus and develop suicide prevention education. As a psychologist her focus has been in the area of developing counseling programs that promote psychological wellness and support academic success. Dr. Collins-Eaglin is involved in several areas of education research, including student retention, curriculum redesign, and faculty development. She completed her Ph.D., Ed.S., and M.A. degrees in the Combined Program of Education and Psychology at the University of Michigan. She is active nationally in the Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors, American Psychological Association, is chair of the Section for College and University Counseling Centers, and is on the accreditation board of the International Association of Counseling Centers.

Renee Craig

Psychiatric and Autism Spectrum Disabilities Specialist
Michigan State University

Renee Craig has served as the Psychiatric and Autism Spectrum Disabilities Specialist since 2012, but she has been involved with the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities as the coordinator and facilitator of the Building Opportunities for Networking and Discovery (BOND) Program since 2010. Renee's responsibilities include working with the University's Reasonable Accommodation Request Policy for employees and applicants, as well as assisting faculty, staff, and students with psychiatric conditions and autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who need employment and academic accommodations.

Renee describes herself as passionate about helping students make smooth transitions with self-advocacy techniques. With a strong interest and specialization in helping students reach their career goals, she partners with MSU Career Service Network to extend opportunities for students as they start their careers. Through strategic planning and goal setting, Renee believes everyone can benefit from setting action-oriented and attainable objectives, and she works closely with students and employees to develop plans for achieving these goals.

About the Speakers (continued)

Matthew L.M. Fletcher

Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center
Michigan State University College of Law

Matthew L.M. Fletcher is professor of law at Michigan State University College of Law and director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center. He is the chief justice of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Supreme Court and also sits as an appellate judge for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians. He is a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, located in Peshawbestown, Michigan. In 2010, Professor Fletcher was elected to the American Law Institute. He has worked as a staff attorney for four Indian Tribes—the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, and the Grand Traverse Band—and he has been a consultant to the Seneca Nation of Indians Court of Appeals. He is married to Associate Professor Wenona Singel, a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians; they have two sons, Owen and Emmett.

Christopher Evers

Instructor, Legal Writing and Advocacy Skills Programme
Qatar University College of Law

Professor Evers focuses on teaching written and oral appellate advocacy in common law legal systems to students whose primary language is not English. He also is helping to develop Qatar University's international moot court program. From 2008 to 2012, he was a full-time legal writing instructor at DePaul University College of Law. During that time, he worked with an instructor in DePaul's English Language Academy to present short lectures on the American legal system to Academy students in order to give them a “real world” American educational experience. Prior to his full-time work at DePaul, he taught advanced writing courses as an adjunct faculty member while working at the Chicago branch of the Illinois Office of the State Appellate Defender.

Jeremy Francis

Associate Clinical Professor Law, Writing Skills Specialist
Michigan State University College of Law

Professor Francis works in tandem with MSU Law's Research, Writing & Advocacy professors to reinforce first-year students' grammar and punctuation skills and to teach students the conventions of legal style. His workshops, optional seminars, and one-on-one instruction sessions help prepare students to pass a required proficiency test by the end of their first year. Professor Francis also works with foreign-educated lawyers through MSU Law's LL.M. program. He teaches a course on basic English skills called Legal English for Foreign Lawyers. Professor Francis joined MSU College of Law in 2006, and received his Ph.D. in Critical Studies in the Teaching of English from MSU in 2007.

Diane B. Kraft

Assistant Professor of Legal Research and Writing
University of Kentucky College of Law

Professor Kraft received her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin School of Law, and M.A. degrees in Applied Linguistics and Russian Literature from Indiana University. Before returning to academia, she practiced law at a civil litigation firm in Madison, Wisconsin. In her pre-law life, Kraft taught Russian, English as a Second Language, and academic writing at Indiana University and Korea University in Seoul, South Korea.

Stephanie LaRose

Associate Clinical Professor Law
Michigan State University College of Law

Professor LaRose has been teaching legal writing and advocacy for more than nine years. She especially enjoys creating original appellate brief problems. Prior to teaching, Professor LaRose was an assistant prosecutor, a family court referee (presiding over child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, and child custody and support cases), and a litigation associate at a private firm. She has extensive trial and appellate court experience and has argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

About the Speakers (continued)

Jessica Levesque

Director of General Education
MacCormac College

Professor Levesque is an educator, published writer, and poet. She earned an M.A. in English from the University of St. Thomas. While attending St. Thomas, she had a teaching mentorship and was the graduate student representative for the English Department. Professor Levesque earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in both English and Communication Studies from The University of Iowa. She also has extensive experience tutoring English Language Learners (ELL) and has worked with students with special needs ranging from ADD and ADHD to Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Pamela Morgan

Director of Business Administration and Entrepreneurship
MacCormac College

Professor Morgan is an educator, entrepreneur, and practicing attorney, licensed in Michigan and Illinois. She is a member of the Order of the Coif and graduated cum laude with a J.D. from Wayne State University. Professor Morgan earned a B.A. in Business Administration from Davenport University and an A.A.S. in Small Business Management from Schoolcraft College. Currently, she is the director of Business Programs and a professor of Legal Research and Writing in the Paralegal Studies program at MacCormac College, Chicago, Illinois.

MacCormac College is a not-for-profit two-year career-focused community college serving a diverse student population. As a career-focused institution, students' prior academic and life experiences vary greatly. In a typical classroom at MacCormac College, a student who has recently earned a GED could be sitting next to a student who has already earned an advanced degree. Professors Levesque and Morgan have worked together for the past two years to develop creative ways to bridge the gap. They have co-led a number of professional development symposia on teaching and learning focusing on engaged pedagogies and reducing skill level gaps in the classroom.

Marilyn Preston

Legal Writing Professor
University of Toledo College of Law

Professor Preston has been teaching legal research and writing at the University of Toledo College of Law for over sixteen years. Prior to joining the faculty, she served as judicial law clerk to Chief Justice G. Mennen Williams of the Michigan Supreme Court, worked at the prehearing division of the Michigan Court of Appeals, and was in-house counsel in the legal department of the Bank of America in San Francisco, California. Besides teaching first-year legal research and writing, Professor Preston teaches Writing for Moot Court, Appellate Advocacy Seminar, and a Bar Exam Preparation class.

Professor Preston directs the Toledo site for the Law and Leadership Institute (LLI), a pipeline program supported by the Ohio Supreme Court to promote diversity in the legal profession, as well as the University of Toledo High School Minority Summer Institute. She is also a member of the State Bar of Michigan Committee of Libraries, Legal Research, and Legal Publications.

Karen Shaw

Director of Graduate Legal Studies
Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Karen Alicia Shaw is the director of graduate legal studies and an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Professor Shaw teaches a specialized, first-year legal writing course that allows students to read, analyze, and apply legal authority to various health care fact scenarios. She also teaches legal research and writing to foreign attorneys within Loyola's LL.M. degree program. Professor Shaw holds an LL.M. degree in health law from Loyola and a J.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where she was an associate editor for the *Journal of Law and Commerce*. She currently is completing a doctoral degree through Loyola's Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy. Her research focuses upon federalism and the interrelations between federal and state governments in addressing issues in health care policy— particularly for the needs of low-income individuals. Prior to her work at Loyola, Professor Shaw served as a program dean for a small business college and taught health care policy and medical law and ethics courses at the college level.

Pam Wilkins

Associate Professor of Law

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Professor Wilkins has taught Applied Legal Theory and Analysis, UDM's first year legal writing course, since 2003. In addition to teaching ALTA, Professor Wilkins teaches Torts, Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure. Her scholarly interests include capital punishment, storytelling and the law, and race and the law.