ALWD Visiting Scholars Committee: Interested Scholar Form

The purpose of this form is to encourage those interested in being an ALWD Visiting Scholar to submit their qualifications and interests for inclusion in a database maintained on the ALWD website.

Please review the information about the Visiting Scholars program and then complete the following information sheet. This form will be published in the database.

Name: Ellie Margolis

School: Temple University, Beasley School of Law

Email address: ellie.margolis@temple.edu

General background (describe your professional life in a paragraph):

I have been teaching legal writing and other skills courses for over 20 years, first at Vermont Law School and then at Temple. In addition to the first-year course, I have taught upper level writing seminars on a variety of topics, including Appellate Advocacy and Civil Motions Practice. I have been a scholar and textbook contributor in the field of legal writing. Throughout my career I have focused on building the scholarly discipline of legal writing, and have worked to promote legal writing scholarship through my work with both LWI and ALWD.

Areas of scholarly interest consistent with the purpose of the grant program (“The Legal Communication & Rhetoric Visiting Scholars Grants are intended to further support, strengthen, and encourage scholarship focusing on the study and practice of professional legal writing.”):

I have developed a body of scholarship focused on the study and practice of professional legal writing. My work has focused on legal research and writing pedagogy, the nature and use of authority in appellate briefs, and policy arguments. My recent work has focused on the effect of technology on both the substance and practice of legal writing. My current work in progress involves the use of infographics to communicate legal analysis. I am also working with Kristen Murray on applying our previous research on teaching legal research to students who are part of Generation Z.

A representative list of your scholarship; please include any available links to online versions of your publications:

Here is a link to my ssrn page, which has links to all of my recent works. A full list of my work is available on my c.v.

Ideas for programming that you might offer a host school, including potential topics and target audiences:

I am open to a variety of programming, and working with the host school to figure out what best meets their needs. I would be happy to present any of my published works or works-in-progress in a traditional faculty colloquium. I would also be happy to meet separately with legal writing faculty to discuss my pedagogical areas of expertise.

In no more than 300 words, describe why a host school should consider you as a Visiting Scholar:

I have spent my career promoting the field of legal writing as a legitimate academic discipline, and I enjoy bring that message to other schools by modeling the contributions legal writing scholarship can make to the academy and the legal profession. I have presented my work in many different settings, at conferences and law schools. I enjoy presenting and I also value the exchange of ideas with colleagues across the country. The Visiting Scholar program offers a wonderful opportunity for collaboration which I’m eager to participate in.

Please attach a copy of your cv.

Please submit your completed application in a Word document, along with your cv, to Alyssa Dragnich at alyssa.dragnich@asu.edu no later than February 1, 2019.
Ellie Margolis
Temple University School of Law
1719 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122
(215) 204-8964
ellie.margolis@temple.edu

Professional Experience

Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania   1996 – Present

    Professor: Courses taught include Legal Research and Writing I, Legal Research and Writing II, Appellate Advocacy (upper level course), Sexual Orientation and the Law (upper level seminar).

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont   1994-1996

    Assistant Director of Legal Writing: Responsible for administering Moot Court, developing course materials, supervising three writing professors, and overseeing budget. Participated in general administration and course development for the Legal Writing and Skills Department.

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont   1992-1996

    Assistant Professor: Courses included Legal Writing; Moot Court; Dispute Resolution; Welfare Law; and Sexual Orientation and the Law.

Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, Cambridge, Massachusetts   1990-1992

    Skadden Fellow: Represented low income clients in the areas of Guardianship and Public Benefits, including AFDC, Medicaid, Food Stamps and General Relief. Advocated on clients’ behalf in court and administrative settings. Worked on legislative reform of the state guardianship system.

Publications


Link Rot, Reference Rot and the Thorny Problems of Legal Citation, chapter in Partners for Preservation, Jeanne Kramer, ed. (Facet Publishing 2019)


How is Legal Writing Read and Written? 22 Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute 37 (2018)

Teaching Legal Research Through an Information Literacy Lens, The Second Draft: The Bulletin of the Legal Writing Institute, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Fall 2017) (with Kristen Murray)


Using Information Literacy to Prepare Practice-Ready Graduates, 39 U. Hawai‘i L. Rev. 1 (2016) (with Kristen Murray)


Mind the Gap, 20 Legal Writing 25 (2015) (with Kristen Murray)

Teaching Research Using an Information Literacy Paradigm, 22 Perspectives: Teaching Legal Res. & Writing 101 (2014) (with Kristen Murray)
It’s Time to Embrace the New—Untangling the Uses of Electronic Sources in Legal Writing, 23 Alb. L.J. Sci. & Tech. 191 (2013)

Say Goodbye to the Books: Information Literacy as the New Legal Research Paradigm, 38 U. Dayton L. Rev. 117 (2012) (with Kristen Murray)


Incorporating Electronic Communication in the LRW Classroom, 19 Perspectives: Teaching

Tribute to Dean Robert Reinstein: Legal Research and Writing Program, 80 Temple L. Rev. 637 (2008)


Teaching Students to Make Effective Policy Arguments in Appellate Briefs, 9 Perspectives: Teaching Legal Res. & Writing 73 (2001)


Selected Presentations

#LegalWriting: Using Twitter to Gather Ideas, Build Networks, & Keep Up with Practice Trends at the Legal Writing Institute 2018 Biennial Conference, July 12, 2018 (organizer and panelist)

A Conversation with the LWI Discipline-Building Working Group on Where We Are and Where We’re Going at the Legal Writing Institute 2018 Biennial Conference, July 12, 2018 (presenter)

Connecting with Technology: Students, the Bench, and the Bar at SEALS 2018 on August 8, 2018 (panelist)

Connecting to the Future: What’s Ahead for Writing and Law? at SEALS 2018 on August 9, 2018 (discussant)

Seminar on Legal Writing taught to the law clerks of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (September 2016)
Help Us Help You Get Published (Panel participant at 2016 Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute)

The Future of Legal Writing (Plenary speaker at Lewis & Clark 25th Anniversary CLE, May 2016)

A Conversation About Discipline Building (Sixth Annual Capital Area Legal Writing Conference, March 2016) (With R.A. Robbins)


Innovation: Does it mean what you think it means? (Plenary speaker at the 2015 ALWD Innovative Teaching Workshop) (With K. Murray)

Information Overload: Preparing Students to Be Practice-Ready In a Global Setting (2015 Global Legal Skills Conference)

Is the Medium the Message? Unleashing the Power of E-communication in the Twenty-First Century (Innovations in Legal Writing—the 2015 Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop at Penn Law School)

Is the Medium the Message? Unleashing the Power of E-communication in the Twenty-First Century (keynote speaker, 2014 Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference)

Say Goodbye to the Books: Information Literacy as the New Legal Research Paradigm (Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, April 2013)

Information Literacy: Next Steps (Capital Area Legal Writing Conference, March 2013) (with K. Murray)

Information Literacy: The Next Wave of Legal Research Instruction, (2012 Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute) (with K. Murray)

Information Literacy (Capital Area Legal Writing Conference, March 2012) (with K. Murray)

Beyond Etiquette: Bringing E-Communication Into the First-Year Legal Research and Writing Classroom (poster presentation to the Temple University Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence, January 2012)

Information Literacy (Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research at the AALS Annual Meeting, January 2012) (with K. Murray)


Incorporating Electronic Communication in the LRW Classroom (Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2011)
Beyond Etiquette: Bringing E-Communication into the LRW Classroom (poster presentation), Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning and Analysis, AALS Annual Meeting (2011) (With K. Murray)

Authority Without Borders (How Legal Rhetoric Shapes The Law: Pedagogy, Theory, Practice, October 2010)

A New and Urgent Role for the LRW Professorate: The Impact of Technology on the Law and Legal Education (Legal Writing Institute, June 2010)

A Dialogue about Persuasion in Legal Writing & Lawyering (panel, Rutgers School of Law-Camden, September 2008)

The Changing Nature of Legal Research and Legal Authority in the Electronic Age, (Legal Writing Institute, July 2008)

Education

Northeastern University School of Law

- Skadden Fellow

Wesleyan University

- Bachelor of Arts, May 1987
- Double major in English and American Studies
- Dana Scholar for Academic Achievement and Community Leadership
- Teaching Assistant for Contemporary American Literature and Psychology and Literature

Professional Associations

- Admitted to Massachusetts Bar
- Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Women’s Institute for Independent Social Enquiry
- Board of Directors, Association of Legal Writing Directors
- Member, Legal Writing Institute
  - Chair, Discipline Building Advisory Group
  - Chair, Scholarship Grants Committee (2010-2016)
- Member, American Association of Law Schools; American Association of Law Schools Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning and Research
- American Bar Association