



Association of Legal
Writing Directors

TO: Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
Jeffrey Lewis, Chair
Barry Currier, Managing Director

FROM: Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD)
Jodi Wilson, President 2018-2019

DATE: April 24, 2019

RE: Report of Activities Since November 2018

Thank you for inviting ALWD to submit a written report of its activities over the last few months. ALWD values its long affiliation with the Council on behalf of the legal writing discipline and appreciates the opportunity to engage with the Council's members and its work.

- 1. ALWD Biennial Conference:** ALWD will host its biennial conference May 29-31, 2019, at Suffolk University School of Law. The ALWD 2019 Conference, *A Time for Transformative Leadership: Teaching and Learning*, will focus on the role of legal writing professors as leaders in legal education as well as the connection between leadership and diversity and inclusion in classrooms, law schools, and the legal writing community. The conference will include presentations by legal writing faculty focused on leadership, teaching, and scholarship, along with three plenary sessions focused on transformative leadership.

The plenary sessions on May 30 will offer attendees an opportunity to learn from accomplished leaders in an innovative format including facilitated breakout sessions. During a morning plenary session, Dean Carla Pratt of Washburn Law School and Dean Marcilynn Burke of the University of Oregon School of Law will participate in a moderated discussion focusing on barriers to professional advancement in law practice and academia, including race, gender, and professional status. During lunch, attendees will enjoy a keynote speech on leadership, diversity, and professional development delivered by Paulette Brown, who is the first woman of color to serve as the President of the American Bar Association and currently serves as Senior Partner and Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer at Locke Lord LLP. Finally, in the afternoon, Audrey Lee, Executive Director of the Boston Law Collaborative Institute, will lead a two-hour facilitated training session focused on building leadership skills in the context of difficult conversations.

ALWD will provide up to five scholarships for expenses to attend the ALWD 2019 Conference to support legal writing faculty who otherwise would not be able to attend. As reflected in the Report of the ALWD/LWI 2016-2017 Survey, available at <http://tinyurl.com/ALWDSurvey2016-2017>, many full-time legal writing faculty do not receive the same professional development benefits as faculty teaching other subjects in their schools and therefore cannot travel to professional conferences without paying out of pocket. Accordingly, these scholarships serve ALWD's mission of developing and supporting legal writing professionals as teachers, scholars, and leaders as well as ALWD's priority of increasing the diversity of the organization and the profession.

Anyone interested in the program is welcome at the ALWD 2019 Conference. More information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ALWD2019Conference>. We would love to see you there!

- 2. ALWD Leadership Academy:** In connection with the ALWD 2019 Conference, ALWD will host the inaugural Leadership Academy. The goals of this academy are to provide mentoring to a new generation of leaders and to help participants grow as leaders in their own right. Over the course of a day and a half, the Leadership Academy will provide training in a small group setting for professors who have established themselves as teachers and aspire to explore or pursue leadership roles. This inaugural Leadership Academy includes a diverse group of participants, facilitators, and speakers. Professor Emily Gould (Columbia Law), an internationally known expert on leadership theory and coach in leadership training, will lead the participants and facilitators through a day of highly interactive sessions exposing the participants to leadership skills and theory with opportunities for experiential learning. On the second day of the Leadership Academy, participants will have the opportunity to learn from panels focused on academic leadership (deans, associate deans, directors, etc.) and the organizational leadership within the legal writing community. We are excited about the opportunity that the Leadership Academy will provide to the participants, and we are confident that this investment in leadership will not only serve ALWD and the legal writing community but will also benefit individual law schools and other organizations within the academy.
- 3. Survey of Law Schools:** Each year, ALWD works with its sister organization, the Legal Writing Institute (LWI), to conduct a survey of the law schools across the country in order to collect information about the legal writing curriculum in each law school as well as the professionals who teach legal writing across the country, many of whom continue to be the most vulnerable members of law school faculties. ALWD and LWI have collected data for the 2017-2018 Academic Year and are now preparing a report of the results, which will

be available at <http://www.alwd.org/surveys/survey-reports/>. The survey provides a wealth of data and boasts a response rate of 90% of ABA-accredited or provisionally accredited law schools that were still accepting new students at the close of data collection. ALWD and LWI will also begin collecting data for the 2018-2019 Academic Year soon.

4. Other Annual Activities: In addition to working on its special projects for this year, ALWD is also engaged in the annual support for teaching and scholarship that has been a focus of its mission for many years. This support is critical to the professional development of legal writing faculty. In particular, the various grant programs fill a need for legal writing faculty, as many do not have the same professional development opportunities as faculty teaching other subjects in their schools. Among other means of support, ALWD provides the following resources for legal writing faculty:

- **Teaching Grants.** ALWD supports excellence in teaching by funding teaching grants that allow selected legal writing faculty to dedicate their summers to exploring innovative teaching ideas and producing teaching tools, materials, and curricula that will assist others in the field. ALWD recently announced the four grant recipients for Summer 2019. The announcement is available at <http://www.alwd.org/congratulations-to-the-2019-alwd-teaching-grants-recipients/>.
- **Scholarship Grants.** ALWD partners with LWI and LexisNexis to support excellence in scholarship by funding scholarship grants so that selected faculty may spend their summers exploring scholarly ideas and producing scholarship that will assist others in the field. ALWD, LWI, and LexisNexis will award four grants for Summer 2019.
- ***Legal Communication and Rhetoric: JALWD.*** ALWD publishes a scholarly journal focused on advancing the study of professional legal writing and lawyering. The journal provides an active resource and forum for conversation between the legal practitioner and the legal writing scholar. *Legal Communication and Rhetoric* is a valuable resource for all “do-ers” of legal writing: attorneys, judges, law students, and legal academicians. Recent volumes of the journal are available at <http://www.alwd.org/lcr/>.
- **Scholars Workshops:** ALWD further supports scholarship by legal writing faculty through sponsorship of scholars workshops held in conjunction with regional or national legal writing conferences. During a scholars workshops, scholars have the opportunity to present their works in progress to a small group of participants who

then provide feedback on the draft. Over the past academic year, ALWD has sponsored three scholars workshops at law schools across the country.

- **Distinguished Speakers Series:** To support the opportunity for legal writing faculty to share their knowledge and ideas with others, ALWD funds a Distinguished Speakers Series. Through this program, law schools may apply for a grant to fund a visit from a legal writing scholar. During the visit, the scholar offers presentations and workshops for various audiences, which may include faculty, students, and the broader legal community. ALWD funded two visits during the past academic year and will fund three visits for the upcoming academic year.

5. New ALWD Officers and Directors: The current Board of Directors began serving on August 1, 2018. Along with me, the officers are President-Elect Anne Mullins (Stetson), Immediate Past President Megan McAlpin (Oregon), Secretary Tamara Herrera (Arizona State), and Treasurer Catherine Wasson (Elon). The Board of Directors includes Mary Adkins (Florida), Shailini George (Suffolk), Brenda Gibson (North Carolina Central), Laura Graham (Wake Forest), Tonya Kowalski (Washburn), Katrina Lee (Ohio State), Ellie Margolis (Temple), Susan Salmon (Arizona), and Amy Vorenberg (New Hampshire). At the end of July, Immediate Past President Megan McAlpin (Oregon) and Treasurer Catherine Wasson (Elon) will complete their terms on the Board. We are grateful to them for their service.

ALWD recently completed elections for open positions, and I am pleased to announce that Katrina Lee (Ohio State) was elected to serve as president-elect and David Krech (West Virginia) was elected to serve as treasurer. Additionally, Board Members Mary Adkins (Florida) and Ellie Margolis (Temple) were elected to another term, and Rebekah Hanley (Oregon) was elected for a first term.

Again, ALWD very much appreciates the opportunity to share its recent work with the Council, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the quality of legal education.