



The Pedagogy of Legal Writing for Legal Academics in Africa

A conference sponsored by Seattle University School of Law, the Legal Writing Institute,

and the Association of Legal Writing Directors.

The Power of Strong Legal Writing

Because the ability to communicate clearly, effectively, and persuasively is one of an attorney's greatest tools, law students must learn this skill.

This conference will provide academics in Africa an opportunity to learn about the legal writing programs that have been developed in the United States. It will also give academics from the United States the opportunity to learn about how these skills are taught in African institutions.

The conference, which will take place at the [Fairview Hotel](#) in Nairobi, Kenya, on March 15-17, 2007, will be presented at no cost to the participants. In addition, depending on the number of participants, the sponsors may be able to help defray travel and/or accommodation costs for participants from Africa.

Active Engagement

Many of the sessions will have a "hands-on" component, allowing the participants to try out the techniques explored in the sessions. Also, all the conference participants will have an opportunity to engage in "sharing sessions" to discuss the curriculum and methodology at their own institutions with the other conference participants.

Conference Topics

- Why teach legal writing
- Writing to a particular audience for a particular purpose
- Incorporating legal writing into existing curricula
- Conferencing with students about their writing
- Characteristics of effective legal writing
- Teaching effective sentence structure
- Teaching conciseness and precision
- Teaching persuasive techniques
- Teaching organization
- Critiquing student work
- Writing as a process
- Learning theory

Who Should Attend

The conference is designed for faculty who teach legal methods, advocacy, and legal drafting. Moreover, faculty members who teach in clinical programs may benefit from the conference. Finally, law school deans and administrators are encouraged to attend.

The Conference Organizers

Professors Laurel Oates and Mimi Samuel, both of Seattle University School of Law, are the conference organizers. Professors Oates and Samuel teach in what the *U.S. News and World Reports* has ranked as the best legal writing program in the United States. Professor Oates is the Director of the program and has been teaching for 26 years; Professor Samuel has taught in the program for seven years and has eight years experience as a practicing attorney in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, California. In addition, Professors Oates and Samuel have traveled to Uganda on two occasions to work with attorneys, judges, and law students there and will be teaching in Uganda and South Africa during 2007.

The Sponsors

Seattle University School of Law educates lawyers who distinguish themselves through their outstanding professional skills and their dedication to law in the service of justice. The school's commitment to academic distinction incorporates innovation, creativity, reflection and sophisticated technology to prepare lawyers for careers in law, business and public service.

For more information, see www.law.seattleu.edu.

The Legal Writing Institute, with close to 2000 members, promotes the exchange of ideas about legal writing and provides a forum for research and scholarship about legal writing and legal analysis. The Institute is currently housed at Mercer University School of Law in Macon, Georgia. Anyone who is interested in legal writing or the teaching of legal writing may join the Institute.

For more information, see www.lwionline.org.

Association of Legal Writing Directors is a professional association of program directors for legal research, writing, analysis, and advocacy programs from law schools throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. For more information, see www.alwd.org.

The American Society of International Law fosters the study of international law and promotes the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society's 4,000 members from nearly 100 nations include attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students and others interested in international law. For more information, see www.asil.org.

Aspen Publishers, Inc. has published numerous legal writing textbooks and will provide complimentary copies of some of those texts at the conference. For more information, see lawschool.aspenpublishers.com.

A complete list of sponsors will be included in the final conference materials.

For More Information

For more information, please contact Professor Mimi Samuel at msamuel@seattleu.edu or at +1-206-398-4066, or Professor Laurel Oates at loates@seattleu.edu or at +1-206-398-4014.

Additional information will be posted at www.law.seattleu.edu/legalwriting/conference as plans are finalized. Please feel free to share this brochure with colleagues who may be interested in attending the conference.

Registration Form

 Please return no later than December 15, 2006.

Name _____
as you would like it to appear on your name tag

Title _____ Institutional affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

I would like to apply for a grant to assist with travel and accommodation costs

Hotel - number of nights *please circle* 3 4 Estimate of transportation costs _____
room size *please circle* single double Name of roommate _____

Please remit to Professor Mimi Samuel, Seattle University School of Law, 901 12th Avenue, P.O. Box 222000, Seattle, WA, 98122-1090, fax to +1-206-398-4077, or email to msamuel@seattleu.edu.