

STETSON UNIVERSITY

Institute for the Advancement of Legal Communication

2016-17 Annual Report

Stetson University College of Law's Institute for the Advancement of Legal Communication celebrates its fourth anniversary in August 2017. The Institute furthers Stetson's commitment to leadership in legal communication education, research, and service.

1. Our Major Goals and Objectives

The Institute's major goals and objectives are to improve the quality and achieve greater understanding of legal communication by

- studying the legal communication issues that face lawyers, judges, other professionals, and the public;
- supporting an active interdisciplinary community of legal communication and writing scholars, including those who study rhetoric; ethics; interpersonal, organizational, and intercultural communication; composition; speech; public discourse and media; procedure; and other topics that involve the communicative aspects of the law;
- developing innovative and effective methods and programs for teaching legal communication theory, skills, and values to students; and
- providing instruction for lawyers, judges, other professionals, and the public to improve their legal communication skills.

2. Our Institute Faculty

Professor Kirsten Davis. Professor Davis serves as Director for the Institute. She has a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Communication and focuses her research on persuasion, ethics and professionalism, and rhetorical criticism of legal texts.

Professor Brooke Bowman. Professor Bowman is a nationally recognized expert on legal citation and is Associate Director for Stetson's Institute for Excellence in Advocacy as well as Advisor to Stetson's Moot Court Board.

Professor Catherine Cameron. Professor Cameron holds a master's degree in mass communications and is an expert on both media law and legal communication.

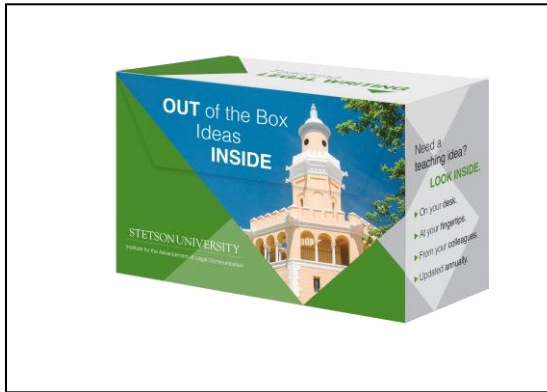
Professor Kelly Feeley. Professor Feeley is known for her work in alternative dispute resolution.

Professor Lance Long. Professor Long’s expertise is in the field of legal communication and environmental advocacy.

Professor Jason Palmer. Professor Palmer combines expertise in legal communication with an international law background.

3. 2016-17 Institute Activities—How We Accomplish Our Goals and Objectives

Institute Continues New Teaching Ideas Initiative: *Teaching Legal Writing:*



Out of the Box Ideas Inside is a project to collect, organize, and share the legal writing community’s favorite classroom exercises and other teaching ideas. The project combines a physical box where legal writing faculty can explore legal writing teaching ideas by topic with an online password-protected area that includes teaching materials that can be downloaded and customized. The Box and the first set of teaching idea cards were distributed to hundreds of legal writing faculty across the nation this past year. Some were distributed at

the Biennial Legal Writing Institute Conference in July and the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference in April. Others were sent by mail. This project accomplishes the Institute’s goal of fostering the development of effective legal communication teaching methods.

Institute Hosts Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference: The Institute Hosted the 2016 Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, *Legal Writing in 3-D: Discourse, Discipline, and Doctrine*, in April 2017. About 60 faculty from around the country attended and spent the day exploring new avenues for legal writing scholarship and the rhetoric of legal writing, the changing technology landscape of legal research and writing, and methods for teaching students the core skills necessary for effective legal research and writing.



At the plenary session, participants heard from Dr. Juliane Mora, Assistant Professor of Speech and Director of the Center for Public Speaking at the University of Tampa, and Dr. Megan O’Neill, Jane Heman Language Professor and Director of the Writing Program at Stetson University, about what’s being taught in undergraduate speech and writing programs today, how these programs are evolving, what new challenges faculty and undergraduate students face in speaking and writing, and their views on student

preparedness for graduate and professional school. Institute Faculty Catherine Cameron, Kirsten Davis, Kelly Feeley, Lance Long, and Jason Palmer designed and organized the conference. This conference accomplishes the Institute's goal of supporting an active community of legal communication teachers and scholars.



Institute Hosts Law, Rhetoric, and Legal Writing Seminar and Workshop: For the third time, the Institute brought together faculty who research and write about law, rhetoric, and legal writing for a seminar and workshop in April 2016. Participants spent the day discussing the connections between law, rhetoric, and legal writing and presented works-in-progress. Dr. Katie Langford, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Texas Tech University, spoke to the group about her new book on the rhetoric of Justice Antonin Scalia. Kirsten Davis designed, organized, and directed this event and she presented her work-in-progress. This event accomplishes the Institute's goal of supporting an active community of legal communication teachers and scholars.

Legal Writing Academy Training Continues:

In August 2016, the Institute conducted an on-site, customized **Narrative Report Writing** training session for Elder Abuse Investigator Supervisors in the Florida Department of Children and Families. This training was for all supervisors across the state. Kirsten Davis led this initiative. This event accomplished the Institute's goal of bringing legal communication education to legal professionals.



The Institute sponsored a day-long CLE for lawyers on **Persuasive Legal Writing** at the Tampa Campus. Kirsten Davis, Jason Palmer, and Catherine Cameron led this CLE. This CLE accomplished the Institute's goal of bringing legal communication education to lawyers.

Institute Works with Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism to Bring Legal Communication Training to Lawyers: In April 2017, Kirsten Davis presented *Communicating Professionalism: An Introduction to Impression Management for Lawyers* at the Florida Bar's Putting the "Pro" in Professionalism Symposium in West Palm Beach, Florida. About 50 lawyers attended this hour-long session.

Institute Continues Its Legal Communication Voluntary Enrichment Program for Stetson Students:

The Institute continued its voluntary, extracurricular enrichment program designed to prepare students to meet the demand for excellent legal communicators in practice. Students completing the year-long program learned what communication skills are expected in the legal practice environment; what communication issues are common to legal practice; and how to be an effective communicator in different situations and for different audiences. Specific topics covered included listening and non-verbal communication, cross-cultural

communication, agenda drafting, e-mail writing, contract drafting, complaint drafting, good letter writing, influential communication skills, writing process approaches, and professional litigation communication. Students completed assignments related to the topics, compiled a customized electronic portfolio of documents to share with potential employers, and completed a self-study program on legal grammar and citation.

Director Kirsten Davis designed the Program, and Institute Faculty Jason Palmer, Lance Long, and Catherine Cameron taught the sessions. One student who completed the program had this to say: “The program offered several practical experiences for me to learn interviewing skills, contract and complaint drafting skills, as well as cross-cultural and non-verbal communication skills. I would highly recommend participation in this program to better hone writing and other communication skills that may be overlooked in other courses.”

This program accomplished the Institute’s goal of using effective methods for teaching legal communication theory, skills, and values to students.

Institute Welcomes Visiting Scholar: The Institute welcomed Dr. Chantal Morton, Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning in Law at the University of Melbourne Law School in Melbourne, Australia, for a two-week visit as an Institute Visiting Scholar. During her visit, Dr. Morton observed a variety of legal writing classes, gave a presentation to students on cross cultural communication, met with judges and lawyers, attended a Florida Bar event, and met with Stetson faculty to compare perspectives on the teaching of legal writing and other legal skills. Kirsten Davis arranged the visit, which was co-sponsored by the Center for Excellence in International Law. This visit accomplished the Institute’s goal of supporting an active community of legal communication scholars.



Institute Gives Advice on Social Media at Impact and Intentions Summit.

Kirsten Davis, along with Stetson Law Associate Dean of Student Life, Tammy Briant, designed and led a session with students at Stetson’s Impact and Intentions Summit, entitled *Did I Offend You? Why Should I Care? Influencing Others in a Virtual World*. This session encouraged students to think about persuasive communication as a skill they can use to manage their online identity and taught them communication strategies to maintain a professional reputation online. This activity accomplished the Institute’s goal of providing effective instruction to students about legal communication.

Institute Faculty Publish, Present, and Lead: Institute Faculty accomplish the goals of studying the issues of legal communication and supporting an active community of legal communication teachers and scholars by publishing and presenting about legal communication and engaging in leadership roles in the field. Below is list of selected publications, presentations, and leadership positions.

- **Brooke Bowman.** *MBTI and Moot Court: A Match Made in Heaven*, Legal Writing Institute Moot Court Conference, April 2017.

- **Brooke Bowman.** *I Have Only Written Memos and Briefs, and You Want Me to Write a What?! A Law Review Article?*, Biennial Legal Writing Institute Conference, July 2016
- **Brooke Bowman.** *Other Voices, Other Rooms: Using MBTI to Manage Advocacy Teams*, Educating Advocates: Teaching Advocacy Skills Conference, May 2016.
- **Catherine Cameron, Kirsten Davis, and Lance Long.** *Scholarship: Who Are We Now? Legal Writing Scholarship in Today's Academy*, Biennial Legal Writing Institute Conference, July 2016.
- **Catherine Cameron,** The Science Behind the Art of International Legal Research and Writing, Global Legal Skills Conference, 2016 & Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, April 2017.
- **Kirsten Davis.** *Rhetorical Criticism as Essential Legal Skill: Some Thoughts on Developing Lawyers as "Public Citizens,"* 16 Communication L. Rev. 43 (2016).
- **Kirsten Davis.** *Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods and Rhetorical Theory in the "Third Generation,"* SSRN Paper, http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2821951 (July 2016).
- **Kirsten Davis,** *My Legal Writing™: Four Techniques* (2016). Mobile Application for clearer legal writing. Free download for iPad and iPhone.
- **Kirsten Davis,** *My Legal Writing™: Memos (2016), eBook edition.* Available on Amazon and iPad.
- **Kelly Feeley,** Co-Chair, Competitions Committee, & Subcommittee Chair, Arbitration Competition, for the American Bar Association Law Student Division.
- **Lance Long,** *Washington v. Brockway: One Small Step Closer to Climate Necessity*, 13 McGill International Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy, 57 (2017) (with Joseph Hamilton).
- **Lance Long,** *Is There Any Science Behind the Art of Legal Writing?*, 16 University of Wyoming Law Review 287 (2016).
- **Lance Long,** *(I'm an) Old Man Look at My Life*, Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, April 2017
- **Lance Long,** *Environmental Advocacy Through Document Design*, Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, March 2017.
- **Lance Long,** *Implicit Bias in Teaching Legal Writing*, LWI One-Day Workshop, Lewis & Clark College of Law, December 2016.
- **Jason Palmer,** Executive Board of the Legal Writing Institute and Planning Member of the 6th Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference.
- **Jason Palmer,** *Narrative Writing - Persuasion Through Effective Storytelling*, Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc. 2017 Spring Seminar.
- **Jason Palmer,** *Cross-Cultural Lawyering: Helping our Students Recognize Diversity in Their Attorney Client Communications*, Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, April 2017.
- **Jason Palmer,** *All I Really Need to Know About Law Teaching I Learned In Kindergarten: Why Law Matters* (panelist), Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, April 2017.