

STETSON UNIVERSITY

Institute for the Advancement of Legal Communication

2017-18 Annual Report

Stetson University College of Law's Institute for the Advancement of Legal Communication celebrates its fifth anniversary in August 2018. 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 advises 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.

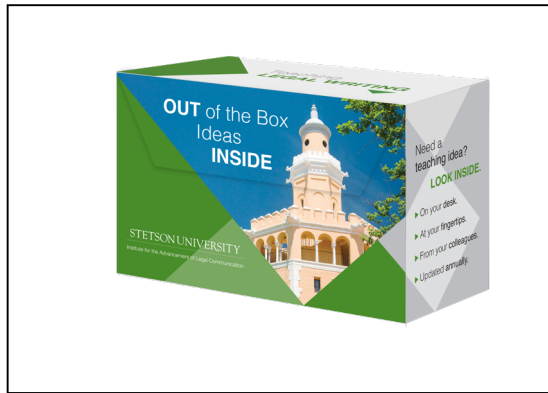
Professor Kelly Feeley. Professor Feeley is known for her work in alternative dispute resolution.

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. 2017-18 Institute Activities—How We Accomplish Our Goals and Objectives

Institute Continues 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 second set of teaching idea cards were distributed to hundreds of legal writing faculty across the nation this past fall. Stetson faculty

contributed cards, and faculty from other law schools also contributed to the project. This project accomplishes the Institute’s goal of fostering the development of effective legal communication teaching methods and being a leader in the law school legal writing faculty community.

Institute Publishes Oral Argument: The Essential Guide. Institute Faculty Brooke Bowman, Kirsten Davis, Lance Long, and Jason Palmer, along with Associate Dean for Student Engagement Stephanie Vaughan authored a student-centered guide to preparing for and participating in oral argument. This Guide was made available to all Stetson students. The Guide draws upon the faculty’s decades of experience and training and brings information about legal communication to students in an easily accessible and comprehensive format. This project accomplishes the Institute’s goal of fostering the development of effective legal communication teaching methods.

Institute Engages in Legal Communication Training. Institute Faculty were frequently involved this year in legal communication training for students, lawyers, and other legal professionals.

- Brooke Bowman taught Certified Paralegal sessions on Legal Research and Written Communication at the 2017 National Association of Legal Assistants Conference and Expo.
- Kirsten Davis worked with employees at Superior Uniform Group in St. Petersburg, Florida, in its professional development program to do a half-day training entitled “Business Writing for Busy Writers.”
- Kirsten Davis taught a one-hour CLE at the Hillsborough County Bar Association Professionalism and Ethics Committee Luncheon entitled “Communicating You, Influencing Others: An Introduction to Impression Management for Lawyers.”

- Jason Palmer served as the keynote speaker for the Spring Meeting of the Paralegal Association of Florida, Brevard Chapter.

Institute Faculty Publish and Present on Legal Communication Issues.

Publishing scholarship and presenting at conferences accomplishes the Institute's goal of studying the legal communication issues that face lawyers, judges, other professionals, and the public.

- Brooke Bowman, *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation*, Sixth Edition, Online Companion (2017).
- Catherine J. Cameron, *In the Eyes of the Law Student: Determining the Reading Patterns of Law Students with Eye-Tracking Technology*, 45 Rutgers L. Rec. 39 (2017).
- Kirsten Davis, *Avoiding "Acrimony": Get Rid of Blaming Language and Get Results*, XIV(2) The Professional 8 (Harry Latimer Center for Professionalism, Fall 2017).
- Kirsten Davis, *Why Does [James] Comey Get an "A" in Legal Writing for His Written Testimony?* Lady (Legal) Writer Blog (June 10, 2017).
- Kirsten Davis, *Unity and Division in a Single Body: The Problem of Lawyers Speaking in Public*, Rhetoric of Society Conference of the Rhetoric Society of Europe, Norwich, UK.
- Lance Long, *Environmental Advocacy: Teach Legal Writing and Save the World*, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference.
- Lance Long, *The Science of Legal Writing for Environmental Advocacy*, Public Interest Environmental Law Conference.
- Lance Long, *Legal Writing and Environmental Advocacy*, New England Legal Writing Teachers Consortium.

Institute Faculty Hold Legal Communication Leadership Roles. Institute Faculty accomplish the goals of studying the issues of legal communication and supporting an active community of legal communication teachers and scholars by engaging in leadership roles in the field.

- **Legal Writing Institute:** Jason Palmer serves on the Board of Directors for the Legal Writing Institute. Kirsten Davis will begin her term on the Legal Writing Institute Board in July.
- **American Bar Association Committees:** Brooke Bowman serves as Chair of the National Appellate Advocacy Competition subcommittee, and Kelly Feeley serves as Co-Chair of the Law Student Division Competitions Committee.
- **Editorial Boards:** Brooke Bowman serves on the Board of Editorial Advisers for *The Redbook: A Manual of Legal Style*. She is Co-Editor of Stetson's *Journal of International Aging Law and Policy*. Kirsten Davis serves on the Editorial Board of the Rhetoric, Law, and Humanities Book Series for the University of Alabama press. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the SSRN Law and Rhetoric E-Journal. Jason Palmer served on the Editorial Board for the Legal Writing Institute's Monograph Series, Volumes 6 and 7.
- **Conference Committees:** Jason Palmer was chair of the Planning Committee for the Sixth Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference and was Chair of the Site Selection Committee for the upcoming Seventh Conference. Kirsten Davis

served on the “Writing Connections” Conference Planning Group for the South East Association of Law School’s 2018 Conference.

- **Bar Association Committees:** Kirsten Davis serves on the Florida Bar’s Standing Committee on Professionalism. This year she was Co-Chair of the Committee’s Education and Resource Working Group.