

STETSON UNIVERSITY

Institute for the Advancement of Legal Communication

2019-20 Annual Report

Stetson University College of Law's Institute for the Advancement of Legal Communication celebrates its seventh anniversary in August 2020. 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 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.

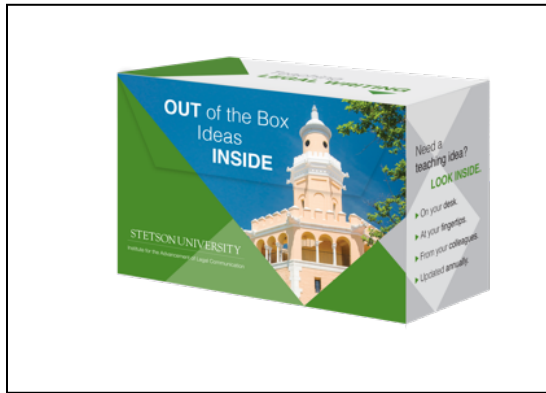
Professor Lance Long. Professor Long's expertise is in the field of legal communication and environmental advocacy.

Professor Anne Mullins. Professor Mullins' expertise in in legal rhetoric and judicial writing.

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*



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. 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. Although we continued our work on this project, new cards were not published this year but are ready to be published.

Institute Co-Hosts *Reimagining Advocacy* Conference. Kirsten Davis Co-Chaired the *Reimagining Advocacy* Conference, which was a joint project with the Center for Excellence in Advocacy. Attendees from around the country enjoyed a day and a half at Stetson thinking and talking about a reimagined future for legal advocacy. Keynote speakers included Dr. Beth Britt, author of the book *Reimagining Advocacy*, and Dr. Corey Seemiller, an expert on Generation Z who spoke on Generation Z and the future of advocacy.



Institute Engages in Legal Communication Training. Institute Faculty continued their involvement this year in legal communication training for students, lawyers, and other legal professionals.

- Kirsten Davis taught a CLE for the St Petersburg Bar Association entitled "Editing for Maximum Persuasive Impact: Four Techniques."
- Jason Palmer hosted the third annual Live Mock Trial Experience for sign language interpreters training at Stetson. The workshop is the only training program of its kind.

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.

- Jason Palmer published *Emotional Intelligence and Homophobia* in the Wake Forest Law Review. He presented this paper at the Wake Forest Symposium on Cognitive Emotion and the Law.
- Kirsten Davis published:
 - *[Classical] Lawyers as [Digital] Public Speakers: Classical Rhetoric and Lawyer Digital Public Commentary* in the Nevada Law Journal. She presented this paper at the UNLV Law Classical Rhetoric, Contemporary Law Symposium.
 - *Consider Singular "They" for a More Inclusive Legal Writing Style* (with Rachel B. Oliver) in Paraclete, the Journal of the St. Petersburg Bar Assn. https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.stpetebar.com/resource/resmgr/docs/paraclete_5&6-2020.pdf
 - *Mentor Effective Legal Writing by Helping Mentees Know Their Audience*, in The Professional, the newsletter of the Florida Bar Association Harry Latimer Center for Professionalism, <https://www-media.floridabar.org/uploads/2020/01/FINAL-Prof-Winter-2020-ADA-Compliant.pdf>.
 - *Professionalism, Making Good Choices, and Lawyer Well-Being: The Connections*, The Professional, the newsletter of the Florida Bar Association Harry Latimer Center for Professionalism. <https://www-media.floridabar.org/uploads/2019/08/Prof-Summer-2019-ADA-Compliant.pdf>.
 - *Introduction to Professionalism in Florida: An Overview*, appearing in the 2019-21 PROFESSIONALISM HANDBOOK, published by The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism and The Florida Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism.
 - *Reading Legal Writing Together: Reading Groups Can Build the Disciplinary Community of Legal Writing Scholars*, appearing in the Journal for the Legal Writing Institute. <HTTP://WWW.LEGALWRITINGJOURNAL.ORG/2019/02/13/READING-LEGAL-WRITING-TOGETHER-READING-GROUPS-CAN-BUILD-THE-DISCIPLINARY-COMMUNITY-OF-LEGAL-WRITING-SCHOLARS/>.
 - *"Digital Public Commentary": A New Rhetoric for Lawyers?* https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/appellate_advocacy/2019/11/digital-public-commentary-a-new-rhetoric-for-lawyers.html.
 - *"Good People, Speaking Well": Virtue, Eloquence, and the Esteem of Lawyers* https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/appellate_advocacy/2019/09/good-people-speaking-well-virtue-eloquence-and-the-esteem-of-lawyers.html.
 - *He, She, or They: Thinking Rhetorically About Gender and Personal Pronouns* https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/appellate_advocacy/2019/09/he-she-or-they-thinking-rhetorically-about-gender-and-personal-pronouns.html.

- *An Ethos for Giving Feedback to New Legal Writers: Expert Coach, not Rival Writer*
https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/appellate_advocacy/2019/08/thursdays-rhaw-bar-a-little-bite-of-all-things-rhetoric-and-lawexploring-ideas-theories-strategies-techniques-and.html.
- *Setting Off Text for Attention and Meaning—The Visually Rhetorical Em-Dash* (selected by Litigation World as its Pick of the Week article), https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/appellate_advocacy/2019/08/setting-off-text-for-attention-and-meaningthe-visually-rhetorical-em-dash.html.
- *Rhetorical Ontology, Or Let's Spend Some More Time Exploring the List*
https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/appellate_advocacy/2019/07/rhetorical-ontology-or-lets-spend-some-more-time-exploring-the-list.html.
- *Lists as Visual Rhetorical Strategy for Brief Writing: Set-Off and Stack-Up*, Appellate Advocacy Blog
https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/appellate_advocacy/2019/07/lists-as-visual-rhetorical-strategy-for-brief-writing.html.
- Anne Mullins published:
 - *Source-Relational Ethos in Judicial Opinions* in the Wake Forest Law Review. She presented this paper at the Wake Forest Symposium on Cognitive Emotion and the Law.
 - *Opportunity in the Age of Alternative Facts* in the Washburn Law Journal. She presented this paper at the Washburn University School of Law Symposium on Law in the Age of Alternative Facts.
 - *Florida Legal Research (5th Edition)*, for Carolina Academic Press.
- Lance Long presented *Research Well, Write Well, Learn Other Practice Skills: Pick Two* at the LWI One-Day Workshop at the University of California Irvine.

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 and Kirsten Davis both served on the Board of Directors for the Legal Writing Institute. Jason Palmer was elected and served as Treasurer this year. Anne Mullins serves on the Discipline-Building Working Group.
- **Association of Legal Writing Directors:** Anne Mullins is President of the Association of Legal Writing Directors and was the 2019 Biennial Conference Chair. Catherine Cameron and Lance Long served on ALWD's New Members Committee.
- **AALS:** Kirsten Davis served as Program Chair for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Anne Mullins served on the Nominations Committee for the Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research Section.
- **American Bar Association Committees:** Kelly Feeley served as Co-Chair of the Law Student Division Competitions Committee.
- **Editorial Boards:** 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 8 and 9. He is an Associate Editor for the *Scribes Journal of Legal Writing*. He also is a Corresponding Editor for *International Legal Materials*, published quarterly by the American Society of International Law. Finally, he is General Co-Editor of the American Bar Association Section of International Law *Year in Review*. Anne Mullins served as a peer reviewer for the *Legal Communication and Rhetoric* journal.

- **Bar Association Committees:** Kirsten Davis is Chair of the Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism. She has written for the Committee's newsletter on topics of legal communication. She is also spearheading a Local Professionalism Panel Summit, which is bringing together LPP Chairs to learn more about the operation of the LPPs and to discuss challenges and successes of communicating professionalism within the bar and community.