

**2020-21 Annual Report**

Stetson University College of Law’s Institute for the Advancement of Legal Communication celebrates its eighth anniversary in August 2021. 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.

# 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 Elizabeth Berenguer.*** Professor Berenguer joined the faculty in 2020, and her expertise is in legal rhetoric and critical theory.

***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 is in legal rhetoric and judicial writing.

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

1. **2020-21 Institute Activities—How We Accomplish Our Goals and Objectives**

**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 stepped into the role of Director of Electronic Education at Stetson and designed and implemented training programs for faculty for teaching effectively online as well as provided leadership for the Learning Management Systems transition. She received the Stetson Board of Trustees Award for COVID-19 Innovation for her work.
* Jason Palmer hosted the fourth 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.

* Elizabeth Berenguer published:
  + The Legal Scholar’s Guidebook.
  + *Gut Renovations: Using Critical and Comparative Rhetoric to Remodel How the Law Addresses Privileges and Power* in the Harvard Latinx Law Review (co-authored).
* Catherine Cameron published:
  + *Stop Worrying About What to Wear to Court* in the Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy.
  + *Pandemic Teaching Tips and Materials* in the AALS Section on New Law Teachers Newsletter (Contributor).
  + *Millenials and Experiential Education: Lessons in Building a Meaningful Legal Career* in the book Millenial Leadership in Law School.
* Kirsten Davis presented:
  + What Are You Teaching, Anyway?: A Philosophy and Rhetoric of Legal Writing at the LWI One-Day Workshop for New Legal Writing Professors, hosted by Penn State University.
  + *Why Legal Writing Professors Should Teach the Singular “They” Pronoun & How to Do So* (panelist) at the LWI One-Day Workshop hosted by South Dakota University,
  + *Online Peer Review Enhances Reviewer Experience and Learning* at theWilliam and Mary Online Conference Dedicated to Excellence in Teaching Legal Research & Writing.
* Kelly Feeley published Mastering Interviewing and Counseling (co-authored).
* Lance Long published and presented:
  + *Climate Change Civil Disobedience and the Necessity Defense* in the book Earth Law Emerging Ecocentric Law—A Guide for Practitioners.
  + *Art Speaks to Environmentalists*, James Museum of Western Art, St. Petersburg, Florida.
* Anne Mullins published and presented:
  + *The Power Skill of Working with Others* in Proceedings (a journal of proceedings of legal writing conferences).
  + *Judicial Decision-Making: Law by Analogy versus First Principles* at the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence Annual Symposium.
  + *Theories of Persuasion* at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference.
  + *Shifting from “Soft Skills” to “Power Skills”* at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference.

**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**:
  + Kirsten Davis serves on the Board of Directors for the Legal Writing Institute.
  + Anne Mullins served on the LWI Discipline Building Working Group.
* **Association of Legal Writing Directors:** 
  + Anne Mullins is immediate Past-President of the Association of Legal Writing Directors and served on the Board of Directors’ Executive Committee.She also served on the ALWD Guide Task Force and the Elections Committee.
  + Catherine Cameron served on the Publications Committee and the Hyflex Teaching Committee.
* **AALS:** 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 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*.
* **Bar Association Committees:** Kirsten Davis was appointed by the Florida Bar President to serve on the Special Committee on Professionalism, which is reviewing the professionalism practices, policies, and standards on professionalism in Florida.