

J. Christopher Rideout
Seattle University School of Law
901 12th Avenue
P.O. Box 222000
Seattle, Washington 98122

206.398.4015 (office)
206.284.7789 (home)
rideout@seattleu.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., 1982, University of Washington.
M.A., 1977, University of Washington (English).
B.A. with honors, 1972, University of Puget Sound (English).

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Seattle University
Professor of Lawyering Skills, 2009-present.
Associate Director of Legal Writing, 1994-present.

University of Puget Sound:
Associate Director of Legal Writing and
Associate Professor of English, 1986-1994.
Assistant Professor, 1981-1986.
Instructor, 1978-1981.

University of Washington:
Instructor, 1977.
Teaching Assistant, 1973-1977.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Visiting Scholar, University of Denver School of Law, October 2012.
Evaluator, Joint Committee on Scholarship, Legal Writing Institute/Association
of Legal Writing Directors, 2010-2011.

Mentor and facilitator, Writers' Workshops, Legal Writing Institute, 2007-2018.
 Board of Directors, Legal Writing Institute, 1984-1996; Chair, 1988-1996.
 Editorial Board, *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, 1990-2004;
 Chair, Editorial Board, 1990-2000.
 Co-director, "Teaching Legal Writing," a national conference on writing
 programs in law schools: July 1984, July 1986, August 1988, July 1992;
 Tacoma, Washington. First conference funded by the National Endowment
 for the Humanities.
 Consultant to Educational Testing Service/Law School Admission Council,
 "Research Project on Legal Writing," 1991-1995.
 Consultant to Law School Admission Council, Committee on Test Development
 and Research, Washington D.C., 1993.
 Member, Washington State Law Revision Commission, 1992-1995 (governor's
 appointee).
 Board of Academic Advisors, West Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minnesota,
 1992-1995.
 Co-director, "Prelude"; a freshman orientation program concentrating on critical
 writing and thinking, Univ. of Puget Sound, 1984-1989.

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors*, 2007; 2013.

Presenter, "Storytelling in Appellate Advocacy," at "Essentials of Persuasion:
 Appellate Legal Writing in Washington and Beyond," Continuing Legal
 Education program, Seattle, Washington, January 2018.

Presenter (as a Visiting Scholar), "A Twice-Told Tale: Plausibility and Narrative
 Coherence in Judicial Writing"; "Discoursal Identities: The Arc of an Idea";
 and "Who Are You? The Identity of Legal Writers"; all at University of
 Denver School of Law, October 2012.

Presenter, "Drafting Legal Agreements for Clarity and Readability,"
 Amazon.com—Legal Department (Seattle), November 2013.

Presenter, "Writing for Clarity and Cohesion," Washington State Office of the
 Attorney General, December 2011.

Presenter, "Writing for Clarity and Cohesion" (multiple seminars):
 Amazon.com—Legal Department (Seattle), 2008, 2009;
 Microsoft Corporation—Legal and Corporate Affairs (Redmond), 2006,
 2007;
 Kirkpatrick and Lockhart, Preston, Gates, Ellis (Seattle), 2007, 2008.

Presenter, "Writing Environmental Impact Statements: A Guide to Clarity,
 Cohesion, and Readability" (multiple seminars):

through Washington State Department of Transportation (Seattle), 2004, 2005;

through Parametrix (Seattle, Bellevue, Olympia, Tacoma, and Portland), 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006.

Presenter, "Aristotle by the Numbers: A Brief Overview of How Modern Legal Persuasion Has Its Origins in Classical Theories of Persuasion," at "Legal Writing by the Numbers," Washington State Attorneys General, Tacoma, December 2003.

Presenter, "Best Practices: Evaluating Legal Writing," Pacific Northwest Legal Writing Regional Conference, Seattle, August 2003.

Presenter, "The Lawyer's Guide to Effective Legal Writing," CLE for the Washington State Bar Association, Seattle and Bellingham, October 2002.

Presenter, "Writing to Persuade: Addressing Your Readers' Expectations," Washington State Attorneys General, Seattle, October 2002.

Presenter, "Appellate Practice: Persuasive Brief Writing and Beyond," CLE for the Washington State Bar Association, Seattle and Tacoma, September 2002.

Presenter, "More Effective Legal Writing: Drafting Legal Documents," CLE for the Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver, April and May 2002.

Presenter, "More Effective Legal Writing: Persuasive Writing," CLE for the Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver, April and May 2002.

Presenter, "The Lawyer's Guide to Effective Legal Writing," CLE for the Washington State Bar Association, Seattle and Spokane, February, March, October, and November 2001.

Presenter, "Writing for Legal Professionals," National Association of Legal Professionals, Seattle, September 2000.

Presenter, "Aspiring to the Model of the Civic Lawyer: Possibilities and Problems," CLE for the Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, June 1997, and Tacoma, November 1997 and November 1999.

Presenter, "Writing for Decision-Makers," Washington State Senate, Olympia, October and November 1999.

Panelist, "Scholarship in Legal Writing," Conference for Directors of Legal Writing and Research, San Diego, July 1995.

Panelist, "Explorations into Law School Literacy," American Educational Research Association, Atlanta, Georgia, April 1993.

Presenter, "Current Composition Theory and the Teaching of Legal Writing," Georgetown Law Center, Washington, D.C., July 1993.

Presenter, "Style and Viewpoint: The Art of Opinion Writing," Council of Appellate Staff Attorneys, American Bar Association, Vail, Colorado, June 1991.

Presenter, "Cognitive Theory, Discourse Communities, and Law School Teaching," Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, March 1991.

Presenter, "From Novice to Expert: Learning Theory Applications for Judicial Educators," National Association of State Judicial Educators, Seattle, October 1989.

Presenter, "Conciseness and Clarity in Legal Writing," workshop for the Washington State Office of the Attorney General, May 1988.

Presenter, "Socrates Meets Piaget: A Case Study of Teaching and Curricular Innovation at a Law School," at "Conflict Over Content: Knowledge, Values, and Higher Order Inquiry," University of Chicago, November 1988 and at "Teaching Critical Thinking: Campus Practice, Emerging Connections," University of Chicago, April 1988.

Panelist, "Undergraduate Writing Goes to Law School," Conference on College Composition and Communication, St. Louis, March 1988.

Presenter, "Writing for All the Disciplines," a faculty writing-across-the-curriculum workshop, Seattle Pacific University, August 1987.

Presenter, "Seminar on Judicial Discretion," Washington State Superior Court Judge's Association, Seattle, April 1987.

Panelist, "'Prelude' to New Understanding: Teaching Writing and Thinking in a Freshman Orientation Program," National Academic Advising Association, Seattle, October 1986.

Co-director, "Integrated Writing as a Model for Teaching Legal Analysis," 1984-1986; a two-year curriculum development project, sponsored by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

Consultant to Law School Admissions Council, Committee on Test Development and Research, Washington, D.C., 1985.

Board of Directors, Pacific Northwest Writing Consortium, 1981-1984; a three-year writing-across-the-curriculum project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities; directed the U.P.S. project.

Outside Evaluator, Thurston County High Schools Writing Project; a one-year curriculum development grant, administered by The Evergreen State College and funded by the Northwest Area Foundation, 1984-1985.

"Clarity and Coherence: Two Lessons on Style," workshop for the Washington State Office of the Attorney General, August 1984.

"Effective Writing for Lawyers," a Continuing Legal Education course, sponsored by the Washington State Bar Association; taught annually, 1982, 1983, 1984.

"Nuts and Bolts: The Everyday Business of Teaching Writing," a regional writing-across-the-curriculum conference; conducted workshops on designing writing assignments and on evaluating student writing; Portland, Oregon, November 1983.

Co-director, "Writing in the Disciplines," a regional writing-across-the-curriculum grant, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, 1982-1984.

"A Rhetorical Base for Teaching Writing"; faculty workshop conducted at Tacoma Community College, January 1981.

"In Celebration of the Written Word"; co-organizer of a regional conference on writing and publishing, January 1980; funded by a Hearst Foundation grant.

"Composition as Thought and Process"; co-organizer of a regional conference on teaching writing, October 1978; funded by an Eli Lilly grant.

AWARDS

Mary Lawrence Award of the Legal Writing Institute, for outstanding contributions to legal writing scholarship, 2009.

Outstanding Faculty Member: 2013, 2012, 1998, and 1995.

PAPERS

"Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to Legal Writing Scholarship: The Example of Narrative Theory," presented at "Teaching Scholars," University of Oregon School of Law, November 2018.

"Character, Mimesis, Verisimilitude, and Plausibility in Legal Storytelling," Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, American University, Washington, D.C., July 2017; also at Pacific Northwest Regional Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Seattle, Washington, August 2017.

"More than Words Can Say: New Ideas for the Plain Language Drafting of Agreements," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, Portland, Oregon, July 2016.

"Narrative Structures and Storytelling Forms in 'Serial': Lessons for Lawyers," Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, Seattle, Washington, July 2015.

"Legal Writing and Genre: A Contextual View," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 2014.

- "'The Whole Truth': Narrative Completeness in Legal Storytelling," Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, City University of London, July 2013.
- "On the Doctrine of Legal Writing," Southeastern Regional Legal Writing Conference, Savannah Law School, April 2013.
- "Ethos, Character, and Discoursal Self in Persuasive Legal Writing," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, Palm Desert, California, May 2012.
- "The Invisible Neighbor: Marginalization and Mental Illness in *To Kill a Mockingbird*," at Rethinking Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* Fifty Years Later, Seattle University, Seattle, Washington, March 2012.
- "Voice, Self, and Tonal Cues in Legal Discourse," at the Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association, session sponsored by the International Society for the Study of Narrative, Seattle, Washington, January 2012.
- "The Sense of an Ending: Narrative and Normative Closure in Legal Storytelling," Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, University of Denver School of Law, July 2011.
- "Aristotle Meets Sherlock Holmes: Truth, Probability, and Narrative Coherence," presented at "How Legal Rhetoric Shapes the Law," American University, Washington, D.C., October 2010 and at Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, Lewis and Clark College, July 2009.
- "Individuals and Community, Situated Practices, and Discipline-Building: The First Twenty-Five Years of the Legal Writing Institute," keynote address presented at Symposium of the Mercer Law Review, Mercer Law School, November 2009.
- "Does Legal Writing Have a Voice?," Legal Writing Institute, Indianapolis, July 2008; "Does Voice Exist in Legal Writing?," presented at "The Art of Legal Rhetoric," American University, Washington, D.C., April 2005.
- "Storytelling, Narrative Rationality, and Legal Persuasion," Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, City University of London, July 2007.
- "Scholarship on the Edge: Finding New Directions for How We Think About What We Do," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, Atlanta, June 2006.
- "Legal Writing, Current Practices, and the Problematics of Legal Literacy," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, Seattle, July 2004.
- "Narrative Structures and the Invisible Side of Legal Persuasion," Second International Conference on Knowledge and Discourse, Hong Kong, China, June 2002.
- "Reading Lawyers: Voice and Character in *Lawyerland*," National Communication Association, Seattle, November 2000.
- "Collaborative Planning: A Model for Teaching Analysis," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, Seattle, July 2000.

- "The Lives of Lawyers: Impulses toward Moral Reading in *Lawyerland*,"
Association of American Law Schools, Washington, D.C., January 2000.
- "What Legal Writers Know," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, Seattle,
July 1996.
- "Rethinking Legal Writing," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, Chicago,
July 1994.
- "Professional Voice, Writer's Voice, and Legal Writing," Legal Writing Institute
Biennial Meeting, Tacoma, July 1992.
- "So What's in a Name? A Rhetorical Reading of Washington's Sexually Violent
Predators Act," Law and Society Association, Philadelphia, May 1992.
- "The Formation of a Legal Novel in American Fiction," American Culture
Association, San Antonio, March 1991.
- "The Relationship Between Legal Writing and Current Composition Theory,"
Association of American Law Schools, Washington, D.C., January 1991.
- "Critical Thinking and Legal Writing," presented at the Legal Writing Institute
Biennial Meeting, Ann Arbor, July 1990.
- "Telling the Truth: The Moral Tradition in American Legal Fiction," American
Culture Association, St. Louis, April 1989.
- "The Social Grounds of Argumentation: One Model for Advanced Composition,"
Conference on College Composition and Communication, Seattle, March
1989.
- "Poststructuralism and Legal Discourse," presented at "Teaching Legal Writing,"
Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, August 1988.
- "Hawthorne's Judges and Legal Formalism," American Culture Association,
New Orleans, March 1988.
- "The Politics of Legal Literacy: Plain English and Legal Culture," Conference on
College Composition and Communication, Atlanta, March 1987.
- "Don't Worry About Whether the Law Is Right': The Social Nature of
Professional Discourse," presented at "Writing in the Center," Pacific Coast
Writing Centers, October 1986.
- "Using Writing to Teach Legal Analysis," presented at "Teaching Legal Writing:
The Next Step," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Meeting, July 1986.
- "Teachers as Gatekeepers, Teachers as Ushers: Helping Students Join Academic
Discourse Communities," Northwest Regional Conference of the National
Council of Teachers of English, Seattle, April 1985.
- "Current Rhetorical Theory and Its Application to Legal Discourse," Conference
on College Composition and Communication, Minneapolis, March 1985.
- "Implications of the Cognitive Process Model of Writing for Teaching Persuasive
Legal Writing," Association of American Law Schools, Washington, D.C.,
January 1985.

- "Writing the 'Right' Way: Student Expectations and the Norms of Discourse Communities," presented at "Writing, Learning, and Belonging," N.E.H.-sponsored conference on writing-across-the-curriculum, University of Washington, November 1984.
- "Using Writing Assignments to Contextualize Critical Reasoning Programs," Second International Conference on Critical Thinking, Sonoma State University, July 1984.
- "Literacy and Learning: Toward an Integrated View of Writing in the Disciplines," presented at "Only Connect: Writing in the Humanities," N.E.H.-sponsored conference on writing-across-the-curriculum, Philadelphia, June 1983.
- "Developing a Professional Writing Program," American Association for Higher Education, Washington, D.C., March 1983.
- "Writing in the Legal Profession," Northwest Conference on Educational Preparation, Seattle, November 1982.
- "Writing-Across-the-Curriculum: Theory into Practice," Conference on College Composition and Communication, San Francisco, March 1982.
- "Literacy in the Humanities"; panelist, Seattle Public Library Conference on Literacy, Seattle, April 1981.
- "Writing and the Humanities"; panelist, "Legacies and Visions: A Conference on the Humanities," Portland, Oregon, February 1981.
- "The New Rhetorical Foundations for Teaching Writing," presented at the Danforth Conference, U. of Puget Sound, April 1978.

PUBLICATIONS

"Starting from Scratch: Early Steps for the Journal," 22 *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* 1 (2018).

"Ethos, Character, and Discoursal Self in Persuasive Legal Writing," 21 *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* 19 (2016).

"Applied Legal Storytelling: A Bibliography," 12 *Legal Communication and Rhetoric* 247 (2015).

"Knowing What We Already Know: On the Doctrine of Legal Writing," 1 *Savannah Law Review* 103 (2014).

"A Twice-Told Tale: Plausibility and Narrative Coherence in Judicial Storytelling," 10 *Legal Communication and Rhetoric* 67 (2013).

"Tom Holdych: A Tribute," in "In Memory of Professor Thomas J. Holdych," 35 *Seattle University Law Review* xv (2012).

"Penumbral Thinking Revisited: Metaphor in Legal Argumentation," 7 *Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors* 155 (2010).

"Discipline-Building and Disciplinary Values: Thoughts on Legal Writing at Year Twenty-Five of the Legal Writing Institute," 16 *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* 477 (2010).

"Tribute to Mary S. Lawrence," 16 *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* 493 (2010).

"Legal Writing: The View from Within" (with Jill J. Ramsfield), 61 *Mercer Law Review* 705 (2010).

"Symposium Luncheon Speech (transcribed)," 61 *Mercer Law Review* 857 (2010).

"Voice, Self, and Persona in Legal Writing," 15 *Legal Writing: Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* 67 (2009); reprinted in Legal Writing Institute Monograph Series, Volume 3: *Teaching Legal Writing—Theory* (2013).

"Storytelling, Narrative Rationality, and Legal Persuasion," 14 *Legal Writing: Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* 53 (2008); reprinted in Legal Writing Institute Monograph Series, Volume 4: *Advanced Legal Writing—Courses and Themes* (2015).

"In Memoriam: Joseph M. Williams," 14 *Legal Writing: Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* ix (2008).

"Strangers in a Familiar Land." Rev. of *Minding the Law*, by Anthony Amsterdam and Jerome Bruner. 3 *Jurist: Books-on-Law* 7 (October 2000) <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/lawbooks/revoct00.htm#Rideout>.

"Creatures from the Black Lagoon—They're Nice; What Writing Specialists Can Offer Legal Writing Programs," 13 *The Second Draft: Bulletin of the Legal Writing Institute* 16 (1999).

"Scholarship in Legal Writing." In *The Politics of Legal Writing: Proceedings of a Conference for Legal Research and Writing Program Directors* (Jan Levine, Rebecca Cochran, and Steve Johansen, eds., 1996), 75-91.

"Legal Writing: A Revised View" (with Jill J. Ramsfield), 69 *Washington Law Review* 35 (1994); reprinted in Legal Writing Institute Monograph Series, Volume 3: *Teaching Legal Writing—Theory* (2013).

"Using Legal Writing to Narrow the Gap: Socializing Students into Legal Education and Law Practice." In *The MacCrate Report: Building the Educational Continuum* (Joan S. Howland and William H. Lindberg, eds., 1994), 156-165.

"So What's in a Name: A Rhetorical Reading of Washington's Sexually Violent Predators Act," 15 *Univ. of Puget Sound Law Review* 781 (1992).

"Research and Writing about Legal Writing: A Foreword from the Editor," *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, Vol. I (1991), v-ix.

Review, Annette T. Rottenberg, *Elements of Argument*, and Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau, *Current Issues and Enduring Questions: Methods and Models of Argument from Plato to the Present*, *Journal of Advanced Composition*, Vol. 8 (1988), 189-192.

"The Language of Inclusion: Writing at the Center," *Washington Center Newsletter*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (1987), 8-10.

"Prelude: A Workshop for College Freshmen in Writing and Critical Thinking." With Bauska, Neff, and Ostrom. *Washington English Journal*, 8 (Spring, 1986), 22-26.

"Applying the Writing-Across-the-Curriculum Model to Professional Writing." In *Current Issues in Higher Education*, No. 3 (1983-1984). Washington, D.C.: American Association for Higher Education, pp. 27-32.

"Evaluating College Writing Programs: A Review." Rev. of *Evaluating College Writing Programs*, by Stephen Witte and Lester Faigley. *Washington English Journal*, Spring, 1984, 28-29.

"A Contagious Peculiarity: Writing at a Law School." *Washington English Journal*, Fall, 1982, 2-5.

A Handbook of Contemporary Rhetoric for the Writing Class. University of Puget Sound, May, 1979. Funded by a Northwest Foundation Grant.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

“Aristotle’s Three Means of Persuasion.” Chapter in *Legal Writing by the Numbers*, Office of the Washington State Attorney General, 2003.

Writing to Persuade. Coursebook prepared for the Office of the Washington State Attorney General, 2002.

The Lawyer’s Guide to Effective Writing. Coursebook prepared for the Washington State Bar Association, 2002 and 2001.

“Anatomy of a Persuasive Paragraph: Addressing Readers’ Expectations.” Chapter in *Appellate Practice: Persuasive Brief Writing and Beyond*, prepared for the Washington State Bar Association, 2002.

More Effective Legal Writing: Persuasive Writing. Coursebook prepared for the Washington State Bar Association, 2002.

More Effective Legal Writing: Drafting Legal Documents. Coursebook prepared for the Washington State Bar Association, 2002.

Effective Writing for Lawyers. Coursebook prepared for the Washington State Bar Association, 1982-1984.

