

Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop Agenda
 University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law
 Wednesday, December 9, 2020
 Via Zoom – link will be provided to presenters and participants

All events are in the Central time zone.

9am	<p>Welcome & Opening Remarks <i>Dean Neil Fulton, Professors Wendy Hess, Michael McKey</i></p>
9:15	<p>Between IRAC & a Hard Place: Effective Strategies for Winning Student Buy-In <i>Professor Susan Greene, Maurice A. Deane School of Law, Hofstra University</i></p> <p>Description: Among the first hurdles for law school students is writing with a strange, new acronym: IRAC. To achieve student buy-in, Professor Greene will discuss how she solicits in-class help in choosing between an array of options on a non-legal topic. Students are armed only with the knowledge of choices she has made in the past on that same topic. Through class discussion, her students inevitably arrive at an answer in basic IRAC format. Because they themselves have discovered that IRAC is the most logical way to convey information and give advice, the acronym seems less foreign to them when they apply it to legal scenarios.</p>
9:45am	<p>Maximize Learning with Classroom Clickers in the Hybrid Classroom <i>Professor Louis Jim, Albany Law School</i></p> <p>Description: “Classroom clickers” (i.e. real-time student response programs like Poll Everywhere and Mentimeter) let every student participate and engage without fearing the dreaded “cold call.” Students submit anonymous responses through their laptops, smartphones, or cell phones, and the responses are then automatically displayed on a personalized webpage that the program provides. In a hybrid classroom, with a mix of in-person and remote students, these programs maximize student learning. Professor Jim will discuss how he has used them to assess understanding of the hierarchy of authority, the interplay between procedural rules and substantive law, citation drills, and real-time student reflections.</p> <p>** This presentation includes a demonstration of Poll Everywhere, which is the classroom clicker that Professor Jim uses. Audience members will be able to participate through computers, tablets, smartphones, or cell phones. <i>Although not required, you may find it easier to view this presentation on one device (e.g., laptop, desktop) and participate on Poll Everywhere with a different device (e.g., tablet, smartphone, cell phone).</i></p>
10:15	<p>Online Live Critiquing – How Technology Has Helped This Process <i>Professor Michelle Zakarin, Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center</i></p> <p>Description: Professor Zakarin will share information about her effective use of online live critiquing. She will address how: students can share their drafts with their professor through screen share, which allows the professor to review the draft and answer questions; the student can type directly onto the screen with any notes/edits/corrections where these changes can be easily saved; and recording each session so that the professor can send the student video to watch again at a later time or simply to review the professor’s verbal comments again.</p>
10:45-11	<p>Break</p>
11am	<p>Interactive Online Writing Workshop for 1L Students <i>Professor Mary Largent Purvis, Mississippi College School of Law</i></p> <p>Description: As legal writing instructors, we have recognized that the opportunity to review, compare, and contrast student work has had a profound impact on our ability to identify the most effective strategies and techniques for legal writing. However, students rarely have the opportunity to review some of the most basic and foundational assignments, including interoffice memos and essay exam responses. Professor Purvis’s presentation will address</p>

	<p>how, in an effort to provide this experience, she conducted an interactive workshop via Zoom that gave students the opportunity to evaluate and discuss a range of writing samples.</p>
11:30am	<p>All About Perspective: Enriching Student Learning with Transactional Perspective <i>Professor Adam Eckart, Suffolk University Law School</i></p> <p>Description: How does our approach to teaching influence student learning and perceptions? By bringing new perspectives to key topics in the classroom, Professor Eckart aims to broaden student experiences and enrich student learning. One such way is by augmenting traditional litigation-oriented instruction on objective writing, persuasive writing, and oral advocacy with a transactional perspective, reinforcing that these skills are important for all lawyers (and introducing students to transactional attorney roles often underrepresented in 1L and popular culture). This presentation will offer three concrete suggestions (with samples) for how transactional perspective can be used to enrich instruction on key course topics.</p>
12pm	<p>Activating Student Engagement in an Online Environment with Team-Based Learning <i>Professor Joy E. Herr-Cardillo, The University of Arizona; Professor Danielle Shelton, Drake University Law School; Professor Melissa Weresh, Drake University Law School</i></p> <p>Description: Professors Herr-Cardillo, Shelton, and Weresh have employed a flipped classroom model and team-based learning (TBL) in their first-year legal writing course. Their presentation will address how these pedagogies enhance student engagement, facilitate deep learning, and help students develop professional identity characteristics. With respect to the latter, employers increasingly identify soft skills as necessary for new law graduates. These are the type of skills that can be challenging to cultivate in an online learning environment. This presentation will address how TBL helps overcome those challenges in addition to creating an engaged learning environment.</p>
12:45-1:30pm	Lunch Break (on your own or optional social opportunity)
1:30pm	<p>An Effective Strategy for Transforming First-Year Students into Effective Writers <i>Professor Whitney Heard, University of Houston Law Center</i></p> <p>Description: Professor Heard will discuss the effective legal writing unit that she developed to introduce her first-year students to word choice, sentence structure, and paragraph formation. She created this unit after realizing she could not assume her students knew how to write clearly and concisely based on their prior academic or professional experience. And, unfortunately, teaching word choice, sentence structure, and paragraph formation as part of an editing unit was not enough. She will discuss the nuts-and-bolts of teaching effective legal writing to transform first-year students into effective writers.</p>
2pm	<p>How to Create a Formal Courtroom Experience Online for Class or Competition <i>Professor Tracy L. M. Norton, Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center</i></p> <p>Description: While law school oral arguments online can feel much less formal than an argument on the ground, creating a more formal atmosphere is remarkably simple. Using just 3 of the 4 devices that many professors already own—desktop, laptop, tablet, and phone—you can create a formal lobby and interior courtroom for oral arguments. In this short presentation, Professor Norton will share the setup she used this semester for oral arguments using only the devices she already owned and a Dollar Tree disposable tablecloth. This same setup can be used for anything from a classroom oral argument to a moot court competition.</p>
2:30pm	Closing Remarks & Adjournment