



**Lincoln's Writing in His Law Practice:  
Insights from His Newly Discovered Legal Papers**

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When Lincoln's mastery of language is discussed, little attention is paid to his legal-writing skills. Now, thanks to publication of "The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln," with thousands of newly discovered documents, it's possible to evaluate his legal writing.

A symposium in New York on January 3, 2008, will consider the role of language in the legal career of the sixteenth president. In the symposium, historians and lawyers will consider whether Lincoln had superior legal-drafting skills or merely those of the average lawyer of his day. The panelists will also examine his correspondence with clients to see how skillfully he handled their concerns.

The distinguished Lincoln historian Harold Holzer, co-chairman of the U.S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, will serve as moderator and make opening remarks. John Lupton, Associate Director, The Papers of Abraham Lincoln, will discuss “Lincoln’s Mastery of Language in the Practice of Law.” Finally, Professor Roger Billings of the Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University, will discuss “Lincoln’s Correspondence — The Art of Dealing with Clients.” Professor Mark E. Steiner of South Texas College of Law, and author of *An Honest Calling: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln*, will serve as commentator.

The symposium is cosponsored by Scribes — The American Society of Legal Writers — and the New York City Bar’s Legal History Committee. It will take place at the New York City Bar, 42 West 44th Street, between 6th Avenue (Avenue of the Americas) and 5th Avenue. It begins at 6 p.m. and will end before 8 p.m. The public is invited, and there is no charge.