



THE  
**Scrivener**

Summer 2015

Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers

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## Submissions

Please send items for upcoming issues of *The Scrivener* to Maureen Collins at [7collins@jmls.edu](mailto:7collins@jmls.edu).

## Way Beyond Grammar: What Today's Legal Writing Specialist Can Do for You

By Lurene Contento

A couple of years ago, a fellow writing specialist gave me a T-shirt that read "I'm silently checking your grammar." And yes, it's true. Writing specialists everywhere are grammar fanatics. We check it, we study it, and we expect our students to use it properly. And so we teach it.

But that's not all we do.

We also teach students about organization and persuasion and plagiarism. We help students spot holes in their logic, and we help them make their sentences flow. We also act as cheerleaders and coaches, and sometimes even confidantes. In our workshops and our one-on-one appointments, we give students not only the tools to become better writers, but also the confidence to write—and to write well.

For most writing specialists, one-on-one advising is at the heart of what we do. It's during these sessions that we can most effectively teach students. But writing specialists do so much more than hold advising sessions. We collaborate with faculty and administrators in developing new tools for students. We conduct workshops for both students and faculty. We design and teach upper-level courses, we serve on our schools' committees, we direct their legal writing programs, and we run their writing centers. This is just some of what writing specialists do inside their institutions.

But writing specialists also play a role outside their home institutions. Writing specialists publish books and articles, we serve on national committees, we present at conferences around the world, and we win awards. Writing specialists have been recipients of the Burton Award, the AALS LWRR Section Award, the Deborah Hecht Memorial Writing Award, and others. We play a much larger role in the field of legal writing than most people imagine; several writing specialists have even become icons in the field.

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Writing specialists also play a role in legal practice. We offer training sessions and seminars for practicing lawyers, especially for new associates. Unfortunately, not all law graduates are as “practice ready” as they should be. Training from a writing specialist (whether in group or individual settings) can go miles in making associates ready to meet their clients’ needs—and, more immediately, the needs of their senior partners.

So as you can see, writing specialists go way beyond grammar. And that’s one reason why our numbers are growing. According to the most recent ALWD/LWI survey, at least 57 schools had writing specialists. But judging from the inquiries that other writing specialists and I are receiving, many more law schools are either adding writing specialists or contemplating doing so.

If you’re thinking that your students could benefit from having a writing specialist, feel free to contact any one of us. We give excellent advice (and not just to students). As Chair of the Association of Legal Writing Specialists, I welcome your call. In the meantime, we’ll see you at your law firm or at an upcoming conference soon. Or maybe you’ll see us—presenting at or organizing a conference, attending a firm gathering, or receiving an award. We look forward to it!

*Lurene Contento, Writing Resource Center; The John Marshall Law School—Chicago*

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## Welcome to the New Scrivener Editorial Team from The John Marshall Law School

*The Scrivener* welcomes its new team of editors at The John Marshall Law School. Along with Scribes Board liaison Mark Wojcik, Maureen Collins, Lurene Contento, and Julie Spanbauer will bring you all the news that’s fit to print. Learn a bit about the editorial team from the bios below:

### Maureen B. Collins

Maureen B. Collins is an associate professor of law at The John Marshall Law School. She teaches in the areas of Lawyering Skills, Intellectual Property, and Art law. She recently attended a monthlong program in Siena, Italy, focusing on the restitution of stolen art and the preservation of cultural heritage. Her most recent publication examines the resolution of the conflict between the Detroit Institute of Arts and the city of Detroit’s creditors seeking to sell the DIA’s valuable collection to pay the city’s debts.



Maureen has served as the faculty advisor to *The Review of Intellectual Property* for many years. This year, she is cochair of the combined RIPL/Braun Symposium *Art and Cultural Heritage as Human Rights*. She serves on the Board of Directors of Lawyers for the Creative Arts and wrote the practice guide *Law for Visual Artists*. She has served on several committees for the Legal Writing Institute. She is a volunteer with the Mikva Challenge program and donates her time and effort to several charities, including the Noah’s Arc Foundation and the Foster Care to Success Project.

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When she isn't grading papers, Maureen loves to experiment with all types of fiber art. She is an accomplished knitter and quilter, and has just begun weaving lessons. She often provides IP advice to her fellow artists.

### **Lurene Contento**



Lurene Contento, Assistant Professor and Director of the Writing Resource Center, has been teaching at The John Marshall Law School since 2001. She teaches several skills-based courses, including legal writing and negotiations, which she develops around principles of interactive teaching and experiential learning.

As Director of the Writing Resource Center, Lurene supervises a staff of professional writing advisors and counsels students from 1Ls to international LLM students in one-on-one sessions. She believes plain language is at the core of good legal writing and advocates its use with all her students. She has published practical tips for legal writing professionals, and in 2012 was awarded the Deborah Hecht Memorial Award for her article *Freeing Students to Write More Effectively—Taking the Fear Out of Plagiarism*.

Lurene has lectured widely at national and international conferences and serves on several legal writing committees. She is also current Chair of the Association of Legal Writing Specialists. She has taught legal writing and other lawyering skills abroad, including in China and the Czech Republic.

Lurene has an essential part in the planning and execution of the Global Legal Skills Conference, an activity that feeds her love of travel.

### **Julie M. Spanbauer**

Julie M. Spanbauer is the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professor at The John Marshall Law School. She teaches Contract Law, Employment Discrimination Law, and Lawyering Skills. She has taught in other countries, including China, Ireland, and Taiwan. In Taiwan, she taught at National Chiao Tung University as a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant Recipient. She has served as the program director for two programs sponsored by the International Law Institute in Washington, DC. At John Marshall, Julie has served as director of the special admissions program at John Marshall, the Summer College for Assessing Legal Education Skills (SCALES). Her most recent publications address teaching and assessment methods in first-year courses.



To the amazement of all who know her, Julie recently took up roller skating. She has been seen in local parades in full skating gear along with her roller derby colleagues. Her derby name is "Jammin' Jules."

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## Scribes Executive Office Moves to Texas Tech University School of Law

Scribes would like to announce that the Executive Office has moved to Texas Tech University School of Law. Dean Darby Dickerson, whose presidency of the group ended August 1, advocated the organization's move to Lubbock because of her expertise with the group.

"I've been honored to serve as an officer and director of Scribes for more than a decade," Dickerson said. "The organization's move to Texas Tech is exciting for many reasons, one of which is our law school's long emphasis on and leadership in legal writing."

Jamie Baker, the Faculty Services Librarian in the School of Law, will serve as Scribes' executive director while Senior Business Assistant Michele Thaetig will serve as its Administrative Assistant.

The organization will be headquartered in Lubbock for at least three years with an option to renew, but the expectation is that Scribes will remain at Texas Tech indefinitely.

"Texas Tech Law is well known for excellence in education and will be a splendid home for Scribes," said Bryan Garner, Scribes Board Member and legal writing expert.

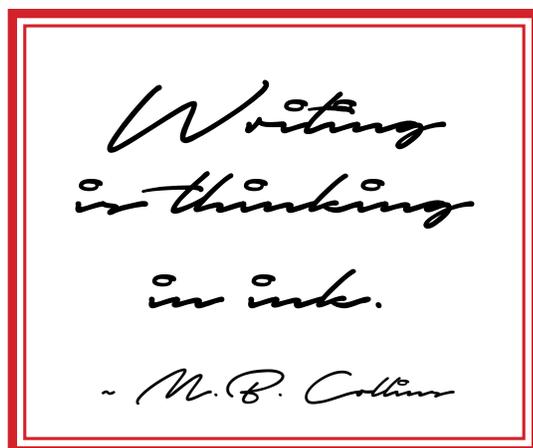
The Western Michigan University Cooley Law School has housed Scribes since 2005. Scribes would like to extend our deepest gratitude to both WMU Cooley and Texas Tech University for the ongoing support of Scribes.

Please forward any Scribes correspondence to the new Scribes Executive Office address:

Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers  
Attn: Jamie J. Baker, Executive Director  
Texas Tech University School of Law  
MS0004  
1802 Hartford Avenue  
Lubbock, TX 79409-0004  
(806) 834-5792  
[scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com](mailto:scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com)



Dean Darby Dickerson



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
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## Change Is Good: The Twentieth Edition of *The Bluebook*

By Maureen B. Collins

Every profession has its unique argot, every club its secret code. At its worst, this code is intended to mystify and impress those who are not members of the club and, at its best, to improve communication among club members. For attorneys, that code is *The Bluebook*. This uniform system of citation was first introduced by the *Harvard Law Review* in 1926. Its twentieth iteration, now compiled by the editors of the *Columbia, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale Law Reviews*, was recently released. At a whopping 560 pages, the new edition is chock-full of information on arcane forms of citation to long-forgotten sources. Its level of detail and attention to minutiae continues to stagger the mind. That being said, the new edition has streamlined its tables for easier access, significantly expanded the Bluepages intended to “translate” the book, and clarified some existing ambiguities. For a detailed look at these changes, check out the summary at [www.legalbluebook.com](http://www.legalbluebook.com). For quick reference, I have summarized below those changes most likely to affect you in your practice and scholarship.

### The Bluepages

Located at the very front of the book and conveniently printed on blue paper, this section of the book focuses on the “everyday” citation needs of most students and attorneys. It summarizes the rules and provides straightforward examples, while referring to the coordinating rules in the body of the text. This new coordination between the Bluepages and the text improves the ability to cross-reference the two. Some typeface conventions have been relaxed. Notably, the rules now permit the use of large and small caps. Bluetable BT2 includes more references to local citation rules.

### Grammar and Punctuation

- Rules 5(2)(d) and (f) have been modified to loosen the rules regarding the omission of an internal quotation mark.
- Rule 10.2.1(f) requires the omission of all geographic terms that follow a comma.
- Rule 10.2.2 clarifies that words in a case name should not be abbreviated if they are part of a state, country, or other geographical unit that is the entire name of the party. This is true even if Table 6 offers an abbreviation for the term.
- Rule 15.9 removes language requiring the use of “available at” in parallel citations.

### Order of Authority and Level of Detail

- Rule 3.2(b) provides additional guidance for citing a range of pages and a single footnote within a page range.
- Rule 12.9.4 revises the rules for citation to model codes, restatements, standards, and guidelines.

### Electronic Source Materials

The guidelines for citation to electronic materials have been modified and significantly expanded.

- Rule 15.9(c) introduces a citation form for eBooks and, while stating a preference for print versions, allows for citation to eBooks if that is the only form of distribution.
- Rule 16.6(f) clarifies that online newspapers may be used in place of print versions.

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- Rule 18 now recognizes the proliferation of, and frequent preference for, electronic sources. The rule no longer segregates Internet and print sources as either direct or parallel. All citations are treated as direct.
  - 18.2.1(b)(ii) provides for direct citation to Internet sources that share the characteristics of print versions (with limitation) even if the source is available in print.
  - 18.2.2(a) addresses author information for social media platforms.
  - 18.2.2(b)(v) considers how to cite titles for blogs and social media posts.
  - 18.3 catalogues where in *The Bluebook* to look for information on citation to sources found in commercial databases.
- follow the abbreviation format for jurisdiction names used in the date parentheticals at the end of case cites.
- Table 13 has been changed from a list of specific periodical names to a general guide on how to abbreviate periodicals. T13.1 includes a list of abbreviations for institutions, and T13.2 lists common words in periodical titles. The author is given a format to follow, but must fill in the blanks using these last two tables.

Is your head spinning yet? The twentieth edition also offers different options for accessing the material. As always, a hard copy is available (and is my personal preference), as is the online version. But you can also access the material with a digital subscription via iPad and iPhone using the rulebook™ app.

### Tables

- Table 1 has been updated and expanded. T1.3 has been revised to

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## Scribes and the Global Legal Skills Conference

By Mark E. Wojcik

The 10th Global Legal Skills Conference attracted more than 200 participants from 25 countries, making it the largest GLS Conference to date. The conference was held at The John Marshall Law School (where the conference originated) and at Northwestern University School of Law. The conference was also cosponsored by the Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey (Mexico), which had twice previously hosted the conference.

The GLS Conference is the world's largest conference dedicated to the teaching of legal skills around the world. The conference has been held in the United States, Mexico,

Costa Rica, and Italy. It attracts lawyers, law professors, judges, ESL professionals, legal translators, and law students from around the world. Conference sessions focus on teaching legal English and skills of advocacy, legal research, and legal writing. There are also substantive sessions on international law, international litigation, and recent developments in national laws.

The GLS Conference held in Chicago included a consular reception and award ceremony, as well as a panel in Spanish to explain the writ of *amparo* and different business models for investing in Mexico. On the day before the GLS Conference, the

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Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) sponsored a separate Scholars' Forum that focused on preparing books and law-review articles for publication and on improving international legal-research skills.

Scribes was again an official cosponsor of the GLS Conference, having also cosponsored the 9th GLS Conference. Other organizations supporting the 10th GLS Conference included the American Bar Association Section of International Law, the American Society of International Law, Clarity, the International Law Students Organization

(sponsors of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition), and the Teaching International Law Committee of the American Branch of the International Law Association.

Scribes is also the first formal cosponsor of the 11th Global Legal Skills Conference, which will be held May 24–26, 2016 in Italy at the University of Verona Faculty of Law. Information about how to attend that conference and to submit proposals for presentation will be available at <http://glsc.jmls.edu/2016/>.

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## New Members

Mary Algero  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*

Josh Ashley  
*Longview, Texas*

Virginia Baumgardner  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Justice Jeff Brown\*  
*Austin, Texas*

Thomas Burke  
*Los Angeles, California*

John Burton  
*Santa Fe, New Mexico*

Brad Elward  
*Peoria, Illinois*

Aaron Epstein\*\*  
*Houston, Texas*

Chief Justice Kem Thompson  
Frost  
*Houston, Texas*

Dustin Gaines  
*Denton, Texas*

Vadim Glozman  
*Chicago, Illinois*

Heath Henley\*\*  
*Nashville, Tennessee*

Valerie Seiling Jacobs  
*Westport, Connecticut*

David Karp  
*Palmetto Bay, Florida*

Stuart Keplar\*\*  
*Dallas, Texas*

Oliver Khan  
*Lombard, Illinois*

Annique Lockard\*\*  
*Grand Forks, North Dakota*

Robert Middleton  
*Chicago, Illinois*

J.M. Mortensen  
*Alexandria, Virginia*

Christy Nisbett  
*Austin, Texas*

Andrew Pizzor  
*Pomfret, Maryland*

Alice Porch\*\*  
*Oldsmar, Florida*

Yvonne Renfrew  
*Los Angeles, California*

Evan Seamone\*  
*Jackson, Mississippi*

Charles Seavey  
*San Francisco, California*

Roy Sturgeon  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*

Andre Tennille III  
*Atlanta, Georgia*

Susan Turley  
*Fort Hachuca, Arizona*

Olivia Weisman  
*Tampa, Florida*

Western University Libraries  
*London, Ontario, Canada*

Scott Wilcox  
*New York, New York*

\* Sustaining Member  
\*\* Student-Editor Member