



THE Scrivener

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Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers

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Submissions—Please send items for upcoming issues of *The Scrivener* to
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Charles Dewey Cole Jr. Honored with Joseph Kimble Distinguished Service Award

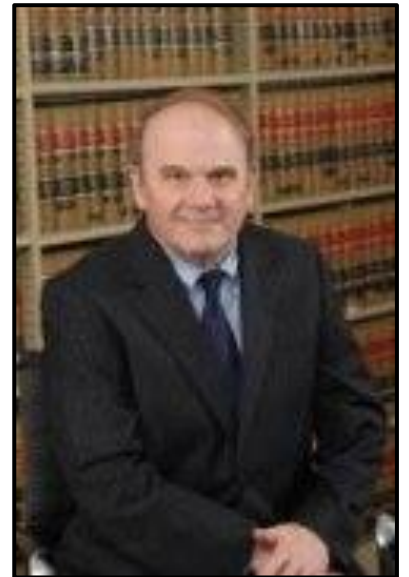
Scribes would like to congratulate Charles Dewey Cole Jr. on being this year's recipient of the Joseph Kimble Distinguished Service Award. The award, which has been given annually since 2016, honors a Scribes member who has made exceptional contributions to legal writing and has provided outstanding service to Scribes.

Cole served on the Scribes board for more than 20 years and recently took emeritus status. He is a trial and appellate lawyer with Newman Myers Kreines Harris in New York City and supervises the firm's federal court practice and New Jersey practice. Additionally, he is an authority on federal courts.

He has taught at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy at the Notre Dame Law School and has been an instructor or lecturer in many other programs relating to trial advocacy.

Cole also served as the revision author for *New York Civil Practice*, contributed to such works as *Black's Law Dictionary* (1999) and *Cases and Materials on Remedies* (1982 and 1987), and has published articles in legal journals.

Scribes thanks Cole for his decades of meaningful contributions to the society and to the overall legal community.



Scribes Announces 2024 Book Award Winner: Dylan C. Penningroth

Each year, Scribes recognizes authors of books that have made extraordinary contributions to legal scholarship. The selected books exemplify the clarity and creativity in writing that Scribes seeks to foster in the legal profession.

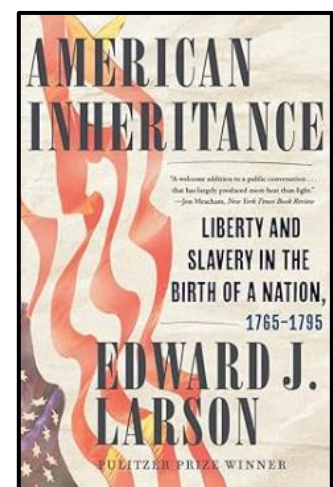
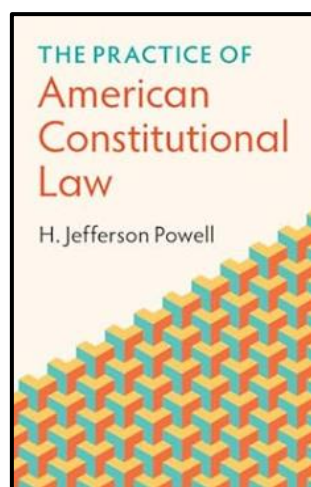
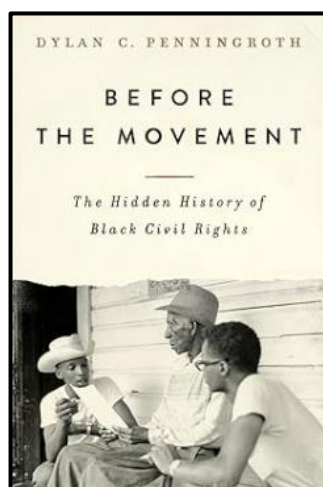
The winner of the 2024 Book Award is **Dylan C. Penningroth**, who wrote [*Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights*](#). In the book, Penningroth presents a revised story of civil rights in the United States. He draws on long-forgotten sources to show that African Americans thought about the law, talked about it, and used it as early as the slavery era. For example, they regularly dealt with laws related to property, marriage and divorce, inheritance, organizations, and other issues that arose in daily life. Further, African Americans subtly helped shape laws, including ones that are in effect today. Through the narrative, Penningroth paints a richer, broader picture of African American life from the slavery era to the 1970s, showing how African American life went far beyond the struggle for freedom.

Penningroth is a law professor and the Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of

History at the University of California, Berkeley, where he also serves as associate dean for the Program in Jurisprudence and Social Policy / Legal Studies. Scribes will feature Penningroth and his book in a [CLE webinar](#) on February 28, 2025.

Scribes also selected two honorable mentions for 2024:

- [*American Inheritance: Liberty and Slavery in the Birth of a Nation, 1765–1795*](#), by **Edward J. Larson**, a professor of history and law at Pepperdine University. The book presents a history of the nation's founding that fully includes African Americans in the Revolutionary protests, the resulting war, and the debates regarding slavery and freedom that followed.
- [*The Practice of American Constitutional Law*](#), by **H. Jefferson Powell**, a professor in Duke University's School of Law. In the book, Powell presents the long-standing practice of developing and evaluating constitutional law claims—a process that transcends political disagreements.



Winners of Law Review Award Demonstrate Excellent Writing

Scribes is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 Law Review Award. The winning articles are considered the best student-written articles published in law reviews and law journals.

Christopher A.G. LoCascio won first place for the article “[The Healthcare System: A Regional Accountable Care Model to Remedy Healthcare’s Pricing Problem.](#)” LoCascio is a law student at the University of

Southern California's Gould School of Law and is the editor in chief of the *Southern California Law Review*.

Karen J. Kukla received second place for “[Direct to Consumer or Direct to All: Home DNA Tests and Lack of Privacy Regulations in the United States.](#)” Kukla is a student at Indiana University's Maurer School of Law and served on the staff of the school's *IP Theory* law journal.

Brief-Writing Award Highlights the Skills of Law Students

Scribes' Brief-Writing Award recognizes exceptional legal writing by law students who participated in moot court competitions across the nation. Each year, 15–20 briefs are nominated for the prestigious award, and the top submissions are selected as winners.

This year, first place has been awarded to **Madelyn Chidester, Joshua Fojtik, and Armon**

Mehrinfar, students at the South Texas College of Law Houston, who competed in the Health Law Moot Court Competition.

Second place goes to **Sam Johnson**, a student at Southwestern Law School, whose brief won the ABA Moot Court Competition.

At the Microphone

Professor Mark Cooney, a faculty member in the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, presented the session “**There’s a Hole in the Safety Net: How Legalese Jeopardizes Enforceability**” at the Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference on July 19. On November 14, he presented the webinar “**How Legalese Jeopardizes Enforceability**” for the Kimble Center for Legal Drafting.

Have you recently made a speech, presented in a CLE program, or taught at a symposium or conference? Or do you have a speaking engagement scheduled? If so, we'd like to share the news with our members.

Please send the details, a link if available, and a headshot to scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com.

In the Limelight

As always, Scribes members have been busy with writing projects, a few of which are featured below. Another member recently received a reward for contributions to the profession. Read on for details.

John G. Browning

John G. Browning, a former Texas appellate judge, a partner at Spencer Fane LLP, and a law professor in Falkner University's Thomas Good Jones School of Law, recently published four articles:

- "[Let's Chat About ChatGPT: A Practical Guide to Risks in Attorney Use of Generative AI](#)," *Akron Law Review*, 2024
- "Setting Guardrails or Overreacting? Examining Judicial Treatment of AI in the Courtroom," *Charleston Law Review*, 2024
- "[No 'Robot Lawyers' Just Yet: The Role of Continuing Legal Education in Fulfilling the Duty of Technological Competence](#)," *Journal of Legal Education*, 2024

- "[Robot Lawyers Don't Have Disciplinary Hearings—Real Lawyers Do: The Ethical Risks and Responses in Using Generative Artificial Intelligence](#)," *Georgia State University Law Review*, 2024

Warren W. Harris

Warren W. Harris, an appellate lawyer at Bracewell, won the Texas Center for Legal Ethics' **2024 Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award**. Harris was honored with the award for "epitomiz[ing] the highest level of professionalism and integrity."

Joseph Kimble

Joseph Kimble, distinguished professor emeritus at the Cooley Law School coauthored the book [Essentials for Drafting Clear Legal Rules](#) with Bryan A. Garner.

Meet Scribes' Newly Elected Board Members

The following members have been selected to serve on Scribes' board until 2027:

- Margie Alsbrook, professor at Mercer University School of Law
- Kem Thompson Frost, former chief justice of the Texas 14th Court of Appeals
- Amanda Fisher, professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law
- Ivy Grey, chief strategy and growth officer at WordRake

These individuals join [already-serving board members](#), including the following:

- Darby Dickerson, president
- Michele Jochner, vice president / president-elect
- Brooke Bowman, treasurer
- Emily Janoski-Haehlen, secretary

Scribes Welcomes National Order of Scribes Class of 2024

Established in 2007, the National Order of Scribes is an honorary organization that recognizes graduating law students who have demonstrated exemplary skills in legal writing. The following students are being welcomed into the Class of 2024.

California Western School of Law

- Ariana D'Agostino
- Michelle Norris
- Aubrianna Staker
- James Thomas
- Summer Wright

Elon University School of Law

- Macaylee Lenae Anderson
- Melo Shai Augustine
- Elizabeth Aisha Fadl
- Emma Friedland
- Rebecca Joy Iyooob

Mercer University School of Law

- Emma Blue
- Hannah Farthing
- Stephen Greenway
- Savannah Hall
- Kirsten Ehlers Scott

Seattle University School of Law

- Samuel Coren
- Gisell Mondragon
- Katherine Robertson
- Kathryn Rizzo
- Ryan Saunders
- Emily L. Seibold
- Jacob Simmons

South Texas College of Law Houston

- Anwar Chagollan Sanchez
- Joshua M. Fojtik
- Natalie R. Galerne
- Colleen Elizabeth Harrison
- Morgan Wallace

St. Mary's University School of Law

- Caitlyn Collins
- Maximilliano D. Elizondo
- Gregory S. Fink
- Falak A. Momin

Texas A&M University School of Law

- Michael P. Bitgood
- Meagan B. Corser
- Devon J. Espinoza-Fontenot
- Sean R. Keller
- Ny'esha Matrice Young

Texas Tech University School of Law

- Brooke Brewer
- Barry Klein
- Allison Morgan

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

- Lexi Breitenstine

- Val D'Ambrosi
- Kevin Glomski
- Matthew Leder
- Amy Mildebrath

Thomas M. Cooley Law School

- Catherine Gagnon
- Phillip Harwood

University of Houston Law Center

- Nicholas M. Boden
- Mackenzie T. Caldwell
- Francis X. Chambers
- Hannah E. Grayem
- Taylor F. Hall
- Laura T. Natchev
- Laura A. Nguyen
- Caroline M. Smyrl

University of Oklahoma College of Law

- Emily Brown
- Nicholas Candido
- Ellen Carr
- Emily Fogg
- Sara Wray

University of Richmond School of Law

- Caleb Briggs
- Sidney Rose Koehl

Join Us for CLE Webinar with Book Award Winner Dylan C. Penningroth

Scribes invites members to attend what promises to be an engaging discussion with **Dylan C. Penningroth**, whose groundbreaking book, *Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights*, was honored with this year's Book Award.

In this CLE webinar, Penningroth will discuss with **Michael B. Hyman**, a judge in the Illinois appellate court, the fascinating story of how ordinary African Americans used the legal system in the century before the civil rights movement to assert their rights, protect their property, and challenge oppression.

Date and time: Friday, February 28, 2025, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. EST

Registration link: <https://swlaw-edu.zoom.us/j/91234567890>



Call for Proposals: National Conference for Law Review Editors

Scribes will hold its third annual National Conference for Law Review Editors on Sunday, April 6, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:40 p.m. EST.

This virtual event is designed to provide incoming law review editors across the country with the tools, insights, and connections needed to run their journals effectively and elevate their publications.

The conference is open to staff at all student-edited law reviews and law journals, and registration is free for editors of student law reviews and journals at Scribes member institutions.

Planning for the conference is currently underway, and Scribes is seeking proposals for 30-, 60-, and 90-minute sessions, which will be delivered live via Zoom. Proposals may be from faculty members, former law review editors, and other individuals and groups with expertise related to law reviews and journals.

To submit a proposal, please fill out the form at <https://www.surveyhero.com/c/NCLRE2025>. All proposals must be submitted by Friday, October 18, 2024.

If you have any questions, please email Darby Dickerson at ddickerson@swlaw.edu.