



THE Scrivener

Spring 2025

Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers

The Scrivener is published several times a year and delivered electronically.

In This Issue

National Conference for Law Review Editors to Be Held April 6	1
In the Limelight	2
In the Judges' Booth	2
On the Bookshelf	3
At the Microphone	3

Scribes, Southwestern Law School
3050 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010
213.738.6711

Submissions—Please send items for upcoming issues of *The Scrivener* to scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com.

National Conference for Law Review Editors to Be Held April 6

Scribes is pleased to announce that the **2025 National Conference for Law Review Editors** will take place on **Sunday, April 6**, from **1:00 p.m. to 7:40 p.m. EDT**. This event is designed to provide law review editors across the country with the tools, insights, and connections needed to run their organizations effectively and to improve their publications. Registration is open to staff of all student-edited law reviews and law journals, and registration is free for law review and journal editors at Scribes institutional-member schools.

The following are some of the highlights of this year's conference, which will be held via Zoom:

- The **keynote speaker** will be **Kellye Testy**, the executive director of the Association of American Law Schools, a former editor in chief, an attorney, a law professor and dean, and the former president and CEO of the Law School Admission Council.
- **Interactive sessions** will cover law review best practices, leadership development, and editing.
- **Workshops** will explore AI in legal writing, symposium planning, law review ethics, and organizational success.
- A **roundtable for editors in chief** will provide an opportunity for peer discussion.

For more details about the conference sessions, check out the [full schedule](#). All sessions will be recorded, and registrants will be able to access the recordings following the conference.

Registration is available via [EventBrite](#). We hope you will join us for this dynamic and informative event as we bring together the next generation of legal scholars and editors to discuss the evolving landscape of law reviews.

In the Limelight

Please join Scribes in congratulating the following members, who recently received awards and other recognition.

Kem Thompson Frost

Kem Thompson Frost, a retired chief justice in Texas's Fourteenth Court of Appeals, received the Houston Bar Association's **2025 Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Award**. The award honors a female lawyer or judge who has "demonstrated, by conduct and character, a record of exceptional service as a role model, mentor, and advocate in the legal profession, and a lifelong commitment to professionalism."



Michele Jochner

Michele Jochner, a partner at Schiller DuCanto & Fleck, has been recognized as a **2025 Super Lawyer** in the area of appellate law. Earning a spot on the national list indicates Jochner is one of the best of the best in her area of practice.



Joseph Kimble

Joseph Kimble, a distinguished professor emeritus at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, received the **2024**

Golden Pen Award

from the Legal Writing Institute. Kimble was selected because his "commitment to promoting plain language in legal writing has been extraordinary, with a global impact that has helped countless people understand their rights and duties."



Have you recently received an honor or award? Or do you know of a fellow Scribes member who has? If so, we'd like to share the good news with the rest of our members. Please take a few minutes to email the details and a headshot to scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com.

In the Judges' Booth

Mark Cooney, a professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, served as a **judge** in the **Center for Plain Language's 2025 ClearMark Awards**. The awards recognize written communications in



English, Spanish, and French that demonstrate high standards regarding simplicity and clarity.

Have you recently judged a writing or advocacy competition? Let us know by sending an email with details and a headshot to scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com.

On the Bookshelf

Scribes loves to hear about members' writing projects. Read on to learn about some of the most recent examples.

Mark Cooney

Earlier this year, Mark Cooney wrote the following articles:

- [Book Review of *Elegant Legal Writing*, by Ryan McCarl](#), *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, May 2025
- ["Is Your Arbitration Clause Clear Enough?"](#) the *Michigan Bar Journal*, March 2025

- ["Ten Tips for Clearer Briefs,"](#) WordRake Blog, March 7, 2025

Michele Jochner

Michele Jochner recently published the following article:

- ["Family Law Wrestles with Ethics as It Embraces Technology,"](#) Best Lawyers website, December 16, 2024

At the Microphone

Scribes members Mark Cooney and Michele Jochner have been busy with more than just writing; they recently flexed their speaking muscles too. Read on for details.

Mark Cooney

Mark Cooney presented the webinar "[Motion Practice in Criminal Cases](#)" for the Oakland County Bar Association on April 17. The presentation covered essential elements of legal writing.

Michele Jochner

Michele Jochner prepared the training "[How to Prepare Your Divorce Case for Potential Appeal: A View from the Appellate Division](#)" for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

She also spoke with the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education on a [podcast episode](#) about appeals in domestic relations matters. In the episode, she explained what individuals should consider before moving forward with a family law appeal, including the practical mechanics, financial factors, and applicable timelines.

Have you recently made a speech, presented at a CLE program, or taught at a symposium or conference? Do you have a speaking engagement in the future? If so, we'd like to share the news with our members. Please email the details and a headshot to scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com.