Writing to Win: Plain Language Jury Instructions

April 7-8, 2008
Bradbury Thompson Center
Topeka, Kansas

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Washburn University School of Law’s Center for Excellence in Advocacy, in collaboration with Washburn’s Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing Program, announces its upcoming symposium, Writing to Win: Plain Language Jury Instructions. The symposium will begin with an opening reception at Bradbury Thompson Center on the campus of Washburn University on Sunday evening, April 6, with presentations planned for Monday, April 7, and Tuesday, April 8, 2007.

Keynote speaker for the symposium will be The Honorable Carol Corrigan of the California Supreme Court. From 1997 to 2005, Justice Corrigan chaired the California Judicial Council Task Force on Jury Instructions. She was among three California justices who were honored in January 2007 as recipients of the prestigious Golden Pen Award in recognition of their contributions to California’s Plain-Language Jury Instructions. The Legal Writing Institute presents the annual award to recognize extraordinary contributions to the cause of better legal writing.

The Honorable Stephen Hill, Kansas Court of Appeals, will also participate in planning the symposium. A long-time state district judge before his 2003 appointment to the Kansas Court of Appeals, Judge Hill currently chairs a Kansas Judicial Council committee engaged in revising Kansas’ Pattern Jury Instructions.

Proposal Deadlines and Selection Process:

We are accepting proposals immediately. Proposals must be received no later than October 15, 2007. The proposal form (see below) may be submitted electronically via email, by fax, or by mail to:

J. Lyn Entrikin Goering
Associate Professor of Law
lyn.goering@washburn.edu
Phone: (785) 670-1665; Fax: (785) 670-3249
Washburn University School of Law
1700 SW College
Topeka, KS 66621-1140

Professor Michael Kaye, Director
michael.kaye@washburn.edu
Please address all comments and questions to Professor Goering.

**General Information and Timing of Selection Process:**

Thank you for your interest in this symposium. The Planning Committee will promptly review all proposals and will complete its selection process no later than Monday, October 29, 2007. Everyone who submits a proposal, whether selected or not, will be notified of the Planning Committee’s decision by email no later than November 1, 2007.

**Format for Proposals:**

Please complete the form at the end of this Call for Proposals to submit your proposal. Presentation selections, as well as symposium scheduling decisions, will be made based on the information in your submission. Please take care to insure that it is complete and correct.

**Conference Fees and Lodging:**

The conference fee, if any, will be waived for all presenters. Authorization to award CLE credits will be sought for all presentations. Upon request, the law school will pay expenses for travel, lodging, and food for presenters to attend the symposium. The law school will reserve a block of rooms at The Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kansas, located about one mile east of campus. Registration information will be posted at a later date.

**Planning Committee Members:**

Michael Kaye  
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The Honorable Stephen Hill  
Kansas Court of Appeals  
Chair, Kansas Judicial Council PIK Committee  
Kansas Judicial Center  
301 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507  

The Honorable J. Thomas Marten  
United States District Court  
232 U.S. Courthouse  
401 N. Market Street  
Wichita, Kansas 67202
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Proposal Form

Presenters: The Planning Committee seeks presenters from the ranks of the judiciary, academia, and law practice.

Please provide full contact information for all presenters, including names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and institutional affiliations. If convenient, please attach a current CV/Resume for each presenter, or at minimum a brief summary of the presenter’s relevant background. The Committee is especially interested in information about institutional affiliations, publications, presentations, and relevant experience.

Joint or panel presentations are welcome; please identify one panel member for the Committee to contact about your proposal. Preference will be given to proposals that will include written materials for distribution to symposium participants. We especially invite interactive proposals that will demonstrate the art of writing plain language jury instructions. The Committee will seek approval from the appropriate government authorities for CLE credit for all presentations selected.

Name(s) of Presenter(s):

Title(s):

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Institutional Affiliation(s):
Abstract: In the space provided below (or in an attached document), please briefly describe your topic and presentation method in three paragraphs or less.

Technology and Room Configuration: Please describe any special electronics, audiovisual equipment, or room configuration needs for your presentation.

Materials: Please describe briefly (or attach) any materials you plan to distribute or use for your presentation.

Length of Presentation: Please estimate how much time you will need for your presentation.

[Options: 25 minutes, 50 minutes, 75 minutes, 100 minutes]
Please email your proposal to Lyn Goering at lyn.goering@washburn.edu, or fax it to (785) 670-3249, no later than October 15, 2007. Thank you for submitting your proposal, and we look forward to your participation in the symposium.