

Laura P. Graham

School: Wake Forest University School of Law

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General Background:

I've been teaching legal analysis, research, and writing for twenty-five years, all of which I've spent here at Wake Forest. I have been our LAWR program director for seven years. Each year, I teach LAWR I and II, and I have taught a variety of other courses, including Appellate Advocacy, Legal Writing for Judicial Chambers, Applied Legal Concepts (an early bar preparation class), and CASE (a study skills-centered course for second-semester 1Ls who did not perform well in the first semester).

I've served the legal writing community in many capacities. I was an ALWD Board member for several years before serving as ALWD President for 2021-22. I've served on many LWI committees; currently I am on the LWI Professional Status Advice and Support Committee, which is playing a key role in helping colleagues address the potential changes that would result from the ABA voting to abandon Standard 405(d) and to expand the reach of Standard 405(c). I've spoken at almost every ALWD and LWI conference in the past 20 years, including co-leading the LWI Critiquing Workshop for the past 6 Biennial Conferences.

Areas of scholarly interest consistent with the purpose of the grant program:¹

My scholarship falls primarily into the pedagogy category. For several years, I and a colleague focused on researching and writing about novice law students—their mindsets when they begin law school, their prior learning and how it shapes them as beginning law students, their experiences in early legal writing, etc. From this research we developed two articles about how to help beginning legal writers progress more effectively, with fewer struggles and fewer crises of confidence. That research led to co-authoring *The Pre-Writing Handbook for Law Students*, published by Carolina Academic Press (now in its second edition).

More recently, my scholarship has focused on reaching and teaching Generation Z students; my 2019 article, *Generation Z Goes to Law School*, was among the top downloads on SSRN for the many months and has generated many invitations to speaking to various groups about the topic. My *Brave Spaces* article explores how we can

¹ The ALWD Distinguished Speaker Series grants (formerly known as the Visiting Scholars grants) are intended to further support, strengthen, and encourage scholarship focusing on the study and practice of professional legal writing.

create classrooms that teach Gen Z students how to navigate challenging discussions with an open mind and with respect for one another. I am currently working on an article that will help legal employers understand how they can successfully partner with Gen Z colleagues in an intergenerational work environment.

See my CV for additional information about my presentations, publications, and service to the legal writing community.

A representative list of scholarship:

See my attached CV.

Ideas for programming Distinguished Speaker might offer a host school, including potential topics and target audiences:

The broad subjects of my scholarship—helping novice law students learn better and understanding Generation Z as law students—are relevant to anyone who has a role in educating law students, from faculty to administrators to staff. At the host schools I've visited up to this point, I've done both small-scale presentations to legal writing faculty specifically and largescale presentations designed for the wider law school community. I haven't done presentations to law students at other schools, but I would welcome that opportunity.

On a different note, over the past decade, Wake Law's legal writing faculty have moved from short-term contracts to long-term contracts to tenure-track to unitary tenure-track (for those who desire that). I would be happy to speak to any faculty and administrators about this path, especially at schools where the proposed changes to Standards 405(c) and 405(d) would necessitate going down the same path.

A few topics I am equipped to address:

- incorporating pre-writing into the legal writing classroom (this would be geared toward legal writing faculty)
- fostering the growth mindset in novice law students (this would be useful for all faculty and administrators and even for students)
- teaching critical reading skills to novice law students (this too would be useful for all faculty and administrators and even for students)
- incorporating writing exercises into non-legal writing courses (this would be primarily designed to reach non-legal writing faculty)
- adapting tried and true teaching methods for a new generation of law students (this would be useful for all members of a law school community)
- Status issues pertaining to legal writing faculty

Any of these topics could be covered either in a traditional presentation format (with time for questions and discussion at the end) or in a more interactive workshop style. And any

of them could be adapted to work with law students—perhaps a pre-writing workshop or a critical reading workshop where I would lead students through some exercises designed to teach them good processes for these important skills.

In no more than 300 words, describe why a host school should consider you as a Distinguished Speaker:

My scholarship is very practical; it focuses on helping lay a strong foundation for all law students to succeed and thrive. We know anecdotally (and research bears out) that students entering law school today are not as skilled in critical reading, thinking, and writing as their predecessors. And it cannot be left solely to academic support programs or legal writing programs to address this skills deficit. It requires the commitment of all constituencies within a law school—administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

As I have researched and written about law student learning over the years, my passion for the subject has deepened, and my expertise has grown. The presentations I've done in recent years at various conferences and workshops have been very well-received; I think what I have to share is interesting and critically important, and I think I share it in an engaging and clear way.

While I think legal writing faculty could benefit from my time with them as a Distinguished Speaker, I would hope to be able to reach beyond that group so that my visit would accomplish some broader purposes. I would love to help educate non-legal writing faculty about the vitally important work that legal writing professors do. I would love to explain why it is crucial that all professors share the responsibility of teaching critical reading, thinking, and writing skills and to give them some tools to use. And I would love to be a voice of support for legal writing colleagues who are seeking improved status at their schools.

LAURA P. GRAHAM

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EXPERIENCE

2017-present **Director, Legal Writing, Analysis, & Research Program**
Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC
LAWR Program: Ranked 6th in the U.S. by U.S. News & World Report

2015-present **Professor of Legal Writing**
Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC

Courses Taught:

- Legal Analysis, Writing, & Research I & II
- Appellate Advocacy
- Legal Writing for Judicial Chambers
- Applied Legal Concepts (early bar preparation course)
- CASE (Academic Engagement Spring 1L course)

2012-2017 **Assistant Director, Legal Analysis, Writing, & Research Program**
Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC

1999-2015 **Associate Professor of Legal Writing**
Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC

1996-1999 **Associate Attorney**
Lana S. Warlick & Associates, Jacksonville, NC
Active family law and appellate litigation practice

1994-1996 **Law Clerk**
The Honorable Ralph A. Walker, North Carolina Court of Appeals,
Raleigh, NC

1992-1994 **Teaching Assistant, Legal Analysis, Writing, & Research Program**
Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC

1986-1991 **Latin Teacher**
Greensboro City Schools

EDUCATION

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Winston-Salem, NC
Juris Doctor, May 1994

Carswell Scholarship recipient (merit-based award), 1991-1994
Notes & Comments Editor, Wake Forest Law Review
Scholastic Honors List, Fall 1993 and Spring 1994
American Jurisprudence Award, Real Property Security, Spring 1994
American Jurisprudence Award, Remedies, Fall 1993
National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Woman Law
Graduate Award, 1994

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY, Winston-Salem, NC

Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, May 1986

Carswell Scholarship recipient (merit-based award), 1982-1986

Phi Beta Kappa

Mortar Board (chapter president, 1985-1986)

AWARDS

- American Association of Law Schools Legal Research, Reasoning, and Writing (LRRW) Section Award, 2022
- Inaugural Recipient, Graham Award for Teaching Excellence in Legal Research & Writing, 2002-2003, presented by the Student Bar Association of Wake Forest University School of Law
- Invited Participant, Center for the Development of Women Leaders Program, Wake Forest University, 2014-2015
- Scholarship Recipient & Participant, Legal Writing Institute Summer Writer's Workshop, Portland, Oregon, 2006
- 1994 National Association of Women Lawyers Award, presented by the National Association of Women Lawyers to the Outstanding Woman Law Graduate of Wake Forest University School of Law.

SERVICE

Wake Forest University School of Law

- **Appointments Committee**, 2015-16, 2022-23
- **Curriculum Committee (past Chair)**, 2008-2020, 2022-23
- **Dean's Executive Committee, Chair**, 2020-2022
- **Student Wellbeing Committee**, 2018-2022
- **Student Advising Committee (past Chair)**, 2013-2021
- **Law Dean Search Committee**, 2018-2019
- **Law Dean's Cabinet**, 2017-2019
- **Outcomes and Assessments Committee**, 2015-2019
- **Academic Engagement Program**, 2012-2017

- **Academic Success Committee, 2012-2015**
- **Law Faculty Representative to University Senate, 2012-2015**
- **Moot Court Advisory Committee, 2009–2012, 2014-2015**
- **Admissions & Scholarship Committee, 2010–2012**
- **Clerkship Committee, 2004–2010**
- **Academic Rules & Discipline Committee, 2007–2008**
- **Honor Council Preliminary Hearing Committee, 2006–2007**
- **Faculty Advisor, Hassell Moot Court Team, 2022**
- **Faculty Advisor, Tulane Mardi Gras Sports Law Team, 2019**
- **Faculty Advisor, Gabrielli Family Law Moot Court Team, 2015-2021**
- **Faculty Advisor, Billings Exum & Frye Competition Moot Court Team, 2011-2014**
- **Faculty Advisor, Craven Constitutional Law Moot Court Team, 2007**
- **Faculty Liaison, Christian Legal Society, 2006–present**

Wake Forest University

- **Phi Beta Kappa Faculty Committee, 2016-present**
- **Pre-Law Advisor, 2012-2017**
 - Met with undergraduate pre-law students to discuss strategies for preparing for law school and assist with the application process.
 - Reviewed applicants' materials, including resumes and personal statements.
 - Met periodically with Office of Academic Advising staff members.
 - Maintained pre-law library.
 - Updated and maintained pre-law website.
 - Represented University at functions for admitted students, entering first-year students, and faculty advisors.
 - Assisted Pre-Law Society officers in planning pre-law events.
 - Attended annual Southern Association of Pre-Law Advisors Conference.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP & SERVICE

Association of Legal Writing Directors

- **Immediate Past President, 2022-2023**
- **President, 2021-2022**
- **President-Elect, 2020-2021**
- **Executive Committee Member, 2018-2020**
- **Conference Site Committee, 2017-2019**
- **Co-Chair, Innovative Teaching Workshop, Summer 2017**

Legal Writing Institute

- **Co-Editor, *The Second Draft*, 2018-2021**
- **Co-Chair, One-Day Workshop Committee, 2018-2020**
- **Co-Chair, New Members Outreach Committee, 2014-2016**
- **Assistant Editor, *Legal Writing: Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, 2011-2013**

Outside Reviewer

- University of Houston Law Center, 2021, 2022
- Rutgers Law School, 2020
- Brooklyn Law School, 2020
- University of Kentucky School of Law, 2019
- University of Michigan School of Law, 2018.

North Carolina State Bar (admitted August 1994).

North Carolina Bar Association

- **Communications Committee, 2011-present**
- **Law-Related Education Advisory Committee, 2011-2016**

BOOKS

LEARNING BY DOING – A WORKBOOK FOR PERSUASIVE WRITING SKILLS (co-authored with Robin Boyle Laisure (Carolina Academic Press) (under contract, forthcoming 2024).

THE PRE-WRITING HANDBOOK FOR LAW STUDENTS: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE, SECOND EDITION (Carolina Academic Press 2019) (co-authored with Miriam E. Felsenburg).

NORTH CAROLINA LEGAL RESEARCH, THIRD EDITION (Carolina Academic Press 2019) (co-authored with Brenda Gibson, Nichelle Perry, & Julie Kimbrough).

ONLINE PUBLICATION

Contributor, *Modular Legal Writing* (West Academic 2022)

Authored *Interactive Legal Research & Writing Exercises: Components of an Objective Memo*

<https://www.westacademic.com/Modular-Legal-Research-Writing-Objective-Writing-Writing-a-Memo-Graham-9781685610531>

ARTICLES & ESSAYS

“Safe Spaces” and “Brave Spaces”: The Case for Creating Law School Classrooms That Are Both (2021) *Miami L. Rev.* (2021).

Generation Z Goes to Law School: Teaching and Reaching Law Students in the Post-Millennial Generation, 41 *U. Ark. Little Rock L. Rev.* 29 (2019).

Welcoming Generation Z to the Legal Workplace, Wyoming Lawyer (August 2019).

Interval Training for Legal Writing Scholars, Essay, 23 Legal Writing: J. Legal Writing Inst. 21 (2019).

A Letter to My (Younger) Teaching Self, Essay, AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, & Research Newsletter (Summer 2018).

Why-RAC? Revisiting the Traditional Paradigm for Writing About Legal Analysis, 63 U. Kan. L. Rev. 681 (2015).

A Better Beginning: Why and How to Help Novice Legal Writers Build a Solid Foundation by Shifting Their Focus from Product to Process (co-authored with Miriam E. Felsenburg), 24 Regent U. L. Rev. 83 (2011).

Beginning Legal Writers in Their Own Words: Why the First Weeks of Legal Writing are So Tough and What We Can Do About It (co-authored with Miriam E. Felsenburg), 16 Legal Writing: J. Legal Writing Inst. 223 (2010).

Writing That Works, North Carolina Lawyer Magazine (published by the North Carolina Bar Association four times annually).

- *And I Quote: Working Quotations Into Your Document Seamlessly*, November 2022.
- *Making it Flow: Taking Your Writing from Good to Great*, May 2022.
- *When “Perfect” Isn’t Possible: The Power of Consistency*, February 2022.
- *Parallel Structure: A Strategy For Improving The Simplicity, Power, And Beauty Of Your Legal Writing*, November 2021
- *Don’t Eschew the Comma!*, September 2021.
- *Avoiding “Zombie Nouns” (Nominalizations): One Way to Bring “Blah” Legal Writing to Life*, May 2021.
- *That, Which, Who, & Whom: Does Anyone Really Care?*, February 2021.
- *Creating a Legal Writing “Hit List”: Using the “Find” Feature to Improve Your Polishing and Proofreading*, November 2020
- *Ten Years In*, September 2020
- *A Collection of Thoughts on the Singular “They,”* November 2019
- *From the Blank Page to the Finished Product: A Five-Step Process*, May 2019
- *Tweets, Blawgs, and Apps: Use Your Phone to Become a Better Writer*, February 2019
- *Me, Myself, and I: Usage Rules that Should Be Reflexive*, November 2018

- *How to Make Your Writing More “Impactful”: Banish Trendy Words*, February 2018
- *Apostrophe Misuse: The Greatest “Solecism” in the Punctuation World?*, November 2017
- *“For Want of a Comma”: The Latest in the Oxford Comma War*, August 2017.
- *Ring in the New Year: Key Changes to the N.C. Rules of Appellate Procedure*, February 2017
- *Help for The Legislative Drafter, Part 2*, November 2016
- *By Popular Demand: A Little Help for the Legislative Drafter*, May 2016
- *The Beauty of a Blank Page*, February 2016
- *“Airs and Graces”: Using Colons and Semicolons to Elevate Your Writing*, November 2015
- *Capitalization for Practitioners: Consistency Counts*, May 2015
- *Lessons Learned: The Correct Usage of flaunt, flout, and Other Frequently Confused Words*, February 2015
- *Avoiding the “Benchslap”*, November 2014
- *EET? HERIM? HISERT? A Bridge Too Far In Search Of Gender-Inclusive Language?*, August 2014
- *To Footnote or Not to Footnote Citations: The Debate Rages On*, May 2014
- *Citation Refresher, Part II*, February 2014
- *A Citation Refresher: Back to the Basics*, November 2013
- *Dashes & Hyphens: Rules for the Discriminating Writer*, May 2013
- *Three Writing Rules that Are More Like Guidelines*, January 2013
- *Don’t Eschew the Comma!*, October 2012
- *Grammar & Punctuation: Lessons from Aristotle*, May 2012
- *The Legalese Limit*, March 2012
- *Cosmetic Credibility: Using Document Design to Enhance Legal Writing*, November 2011
- *Conciseness: Why It’s Important and How to Achieve It*, May-June 2011
- *The Quest for Clarity: Part II*, March-April 2011
- *The Quest for Clarity: Part I*, November-December 2010
- *Precision: The Indispensable Characteristic of Effective Legal Writing*. September-October 2010
- *Precision, Clarity, Conciseness: Three Interrelated Hallmarks of Good Legal Writing*, May-June 2010
- *Characteristics of Good Legal Writing: Easy to Explain But Difficult to Do*, March-April 2010

Ten Tips for Creating a Great Writing Sample, NCBA Young Lawyer (January 2012).

Before You Click “Send”: E-mail Best Practices for Lawyers, 16 *The Young*

Lawyer (ABA December 2011).

Comment, *The Uniform Premarital Agreement Act and Modern Social Policy: The Enforceability of Premarital Agreements Regulating the Ongoing Marriage*, 28 Wake Forest L. Rev. 1037 (1993).

MEDIA APPEARANCES

“Gen Z: What Kind of Colleagues Will They Be?” (podcast), *Legal Talk Network* (June 9, 2002), <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/legal-talk-network-law-news-and-legal-topics/id73802197?i=1000566013092>

Karen Sloan, *Ahead of the Curve: Welcome to Campus, Gen Z*, law.com, Dec. 4, 2018, <https://www.law.com/2018/12/04/ahead-of-the-curve-welcome-to-campus-gen-z/>.

Paul Caron, *Generation Z Goes to Law School*, TaxProf Blog, Nov. 29, 2018, https://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2018/11/generation-z-goes-to-law-school-teaching-and-reaching-law-students-in-the-post-millennial-generation.html.

Staci Zaretsky, *Will Generation Z Law Students Be Even Worse than Millennials*, Above the Law, Dec. 4, 2018, <https://abovethelaw.com/2018/12/will-generation-z-law-students-be-even-worse-than-millennials/>.

PRESENTATIONS

Critiquing Workshop, Lead Planner and Co-Facilitator, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Georgetown Law School, Washington DC, July 2022.

“Generation Z: What Kind of Colleagues Will They Be?”, State Bar of Texas 2022 Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, June 2022.

“The Fisher-Price School of Legal Writing: Baby Stepping,” Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, South Texas College of Law, Houston TX, December 2021.

“Generation Z: Our Newest Colleagues in Law School and in the Workplace,” Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, October 2021.

“Generation Z Goes to Law School (and into the Workplace),” In-Court Seminar of the U.S. District Court of Minnesota, Brainerd, MN, September 2021.

“Let’s Do This: Legal Writing in Plain English,” Continuing Legal Education

Program, North Carolina Bar Association Government and Public Sector Program, April 2021.

“Stepping it Up: Taking Your Legal Writing from Good to Great,” Continuing Legal Education Program, North Carolina Bar Association, February 2021.

Critiquing Workshop, Lead Planner and Co-Facilitator, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, December 2020.

“Developing Brave Spaces for Teaching Cultural Competency in the Gen Z Era” (co-presented with Tiffany Atkins), Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, September 2020.

“Baby-Stepping: Slowing the Pace for Today’s Legal Writing Students,” Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Memphis, TN, December 2019.

“Welcoming Generation Z: Enhancing the Law School Experience of Our Newest Law Students,” Institute for Law Teaching & Learning Conference, Washburn Law School, Topeka, KS, June 2019.

“Mindfulness: A Key Tool for Improving the Law School Experience of Generation Z Students (co-presented with Professor Shailini Jandial George), 2019 Biennial Conference of the Association of Legal Writing Directors, Suffolk Law School, Boston, MA, May 2019.

“Cast of Characters: Who Are the Millennials and Generation Z?” (panelist), National Conference of Bar Examiners 2019 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May 2019 (invited speaker).

“Generation Z Goes to Law School: Teaching and Reaching Law Students in the Post-Millennial Generation,” Southern Methodist University Law School, Dallas, TX, April 2019 (invited speaker).

“Generation Z Goes to Law School,” Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Chapman University Fowler School of Law, Orange, CA, December 2018 (invited speaker).

Critiquing Workshop, Lead Planner and Co-Facilitator, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Milwaukee, WI, July 2018.

“LRW Faculty Hiring and Mentoring: Challenges in Diversity, Equality, and Process,” Panelist, Association of Legal Writing Directors 2017 Biennial Conference, Minneapolis, MN, July 2017.

“The More Things Change: The State of Legal Writing in 2017,” Keynote

Speaker, North Carolina Paralegal Association Annual Meeting, Wrightsville Beach, NC, March 2017.

Lead Planner and Facilitator, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Wake Forest University School of Law, December 2016.

“Rules and Conventions of Legal Writing Style: A Refresher,” HanesBrands Employee Training Session, Winston-Salem, NC, November 2016.

“Changing or Converting Your Legal Writing Program to Tenure Track,” Panelist, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Portland, OR, July 2016.

Critiquing Workshop, Co-Leader and Presenter, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Portland, OR, July 2016.

“Rules and Conventions of Legal Writing Style: A Refresher,” Keynote Speaker, North Carolina Bar Association Paralegal Division Annual Meeting, May 2016.

“Pre-Writing: Making It Fruitful and Keeping It Fun,” Legal Writing Institute Workshop, Florida International University School of Law, December 2015.

“First Things First: How to Build Foundational Pre-Writing Lessons Into Your Legal Writing Class,” Keynote Address, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Charlotte School of Law, Charlotte, NC, December 2014.

“Balancing the Needs of the Legal Reader and the Legal Writer,” NC Association of Women Attorneys Conference, Asheville, NC, October 2014.

“What I Wish My 1Ls Had Known Before They Started Law School,” Southern Association of Pre-Law Advisors Conference, New Orleans, LA, September 2014.

Critiquing Workshop, Facilitator, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Philadelphia, PA, June 2014.

“Mastering the Labyrinth: Working Through the Maze of Multiple Acceptances,” Southern Association of Pre-Law Advisors Conference, Atlanta GA, November 2013.

“Pre-Writing: Who, What, When, Where, and Why,” North Carolina-South Carolina Legal Writing Colloquium, University of South Carolina School of Law, May 2013.

“Pre-Writing: What It Is and Why It Matters,” Legal Writing Institute One-Day Conference, George Washington Univ. Law School, November 2012.

“Lessons from Aristotle: Legal Writing for Practitioners,” Continuing Legal Education Program, NC Bar Association, Cary NC, November 2012.

“Pre-Writing: Who, What, When, Where, and Why,” Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Palm Springs, CA, June 2012.

“Corrective Vision: Giving Our Students Better Insight into the True Role of the Legal Writing Professor,” North Carolina-South Carolina Legal Writing Colloquium, North Carolina Central University Law School, May 2011.

“A Better Beginning: Helping Students Shift their Focus from Product to Process” (co-presented with Miriam E. Felsenburg), Second Annual Empire State Legal Writing Conference, St. John’s University, May 2011.

“Writing Successful Bar Exam Essays” (sponsored by Academic Success Program), Wake Forest University School of Law, January 29, 2011.

“Using Reader-Based Feedback to Enhance Students’ Learning” (panel member), Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Wake Forest University School of Law, December 2010.

“A Better Beginning: Strategies for Minimizing Students’ Frustration and Maximizing Their Achievement in the First Weeks of Legal Writing Instruction” (co-presented with Miriam E. Felsenburg), Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Marco Island, Florida, June 2010.

“Beginning Legal Writers in Their Own Words,” Legal Writing Institute, Summer Writers Workshop, Portland, Oregon, July 2009.

“A Better Beginning,” Carolina Legal Writing Consortium, Wake Forest University School of Law, May 2007.

“Developing and Using Class Notes Effectively,” Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Seattle University School of Law, July 2004.

“Preparing Effective Class Notes,” Southeastern Legal Writing Conference, Stetson University Law School, September 2003.