

## ALWD Visiting Scholars Committee: Interested Scholar Form

**Name:** Julie A. Oseid

**School:** University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, MN

**Email address:** jaoseid@stthomas.edu

### **General background (describe your professional life in a paragraph):**

I have practiced law in many different contexts, including as: a law clerk in the Criminal division of the largest county attorney's office in Minnesota; a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals law clerk to Judge John T. Noonan, Jr.; an associate in the business litigation and professional malpractice group at a large private law firm; and a legal writing and research professor. When I found the law I found people whose approach to the world was similar to my own; when I found teaching I found home.

### **Areas of scholarly interest consistent with the purpose of the grant program ("The Legal Communication & Rhetoric Visiting Scholars Grants are intended to further support, strengthen, and encourage scholarship focusing on the study and practice of professional legal writing."):**

My scholarly focus is on legal writing, professionalism, and the importance of human lawyers in the age of artificial intelligence. My goal is to help law students and lawyers improve their writing and advocacy.

### **A representative list of your scholarship; please include any available links to online versions of your publications:**

#### Professional Legal Writing Scholarship:

1. Julie A. Oseid, *Communicators-in-Chief: Lessons in Persuasion from Five Eloquent American Presidents* (Carolina Academic Press 2017).

This book began as a series of five articles published in *Legal Communication & Rhetoric: J. ALWD*. Each of the articles focused on the writing strengths of the following presidents: Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, and Teddy Roosevelt.

2. Melissa Love Koenig, Julie A. Oseid, and Amy Vorenberg, *OK, Google? Will Artificial Intelligence Replace Human Lawyering?*, 102 *Marq. L. Rev.* \_\_\_\_ (forthcoming 2019).
3. Julie A. Oseid, *What Lawyers Can Learn from Edgar Allan Poe*, 15 *Legal Communication & Rhetoric: J. ALWD* 233 (2018). <http://www.alwd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/lcr18-08-Oseid.pdf>.

#### Scholarship Related to Professionalism:

1. Stephen D. Easton & Julie A. Oseid, “*And Bad Mistakes? I’ve Made a Few*”: *Sharing Mistakes to Mentor New Lawyers*, 77 Alb. L. Rev. 865 (2014).  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2337241](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2337241).
2. Julie A. Oseid & Stephen D. Easton, *The Trump Card: A Lawyer’s Personal Conscience or Professional Duty?*, 10 Wyo. L. Rev. 415 (2010).  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1595153](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1595153).
3. Julie A. Oseid, *When Big Brother is Watching [Out for] You: Mentoring Lawyers, Choosing a Mentor, and Sharing Ten Virtues from My Mentor*, 59 S.C. L. Rev. 393 (2008) (winner of the Warren E. Burger Writing Competition sponsored by the American Inns of Court).  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1008988](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1008988).
4. Julie A. Oseid, *It Happened to Me: Sharing Personal Value Dilemmas to Teach Ethics*, 12 Leg. Writing 105 (2006). [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=878209](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=878209).

#### Scholarship Related to Teaching:

1. Julie A. Oseid, *Talk Less, Smile More*, 68 J. Legal Educ. \_\_\_\_ (forthcoming 2019).  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3302906](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3302906).
2. Julie A. Oseid, *Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Using the Seventh-Inning Stretch to Teach Law Students*, 82 N.D. L. Rev. 465 (2006).  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=899215](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=899215).

#### **Ideas for programming that you might offer a host school, including potential topics and target audiences:**

1. *Communicators-in-Chief: Lessons in Persuasion from Five Eloquent American Presidents*.  
I could discuss some, or all, of the presidents I wrote about in my book: Jefferson, Madison, Lincoln, Grant, and Teddy Roosevelt.

I have made several presentations to judges and lawyers about Lincoln and Grant in two sessions lasting 45 minutes each. Lincoln’s quality of brevity is the perfect complement to Grant’s quality of clarity. I could make a similar presentation to a group of law professors, students, and lawyers.

2. *Charlotte A. Cavatica: The Importance of Imagination in Finding and Telling Our Client’s Stories*.

E.B. White created an incredible role model for lawyers in his book *Charlotte’s Web*. Charlotte was Wilbur’s lawyer, and it was her imagination in both finding and then telling Wilbur’s story that saved him from death. Imaginative lawyers have followed Charlotte’s lead to advocate for their clients; these human lawyers can’t be replaced by artificial intelligence.

I believe this presentation would appeal to law professors, law students, and lawyers.

3. *What Lawyers Can Learn from Edgar Allan Poe.*

I could reveal the spine-tingling Edgar Allan Poe sensation I had when reading about the synergy between stories of horror and legal writing. Poe defined the short-story and named four qualities—brevity, unity, focus, and brilliant style—as critical. These exact same qualities are familiar to lawyers because they are just as critical for persuasive briefs. The presentation would examine Poe’s critique of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *Twice-Told Tales*, review some of Poe’s own work, and apply Poe’s advice about great short-story writing to legal writing.

This presentation would appeal to all legal writers and to the wide Edgar Allan Poe fan base (which I did not know existed until I published and presented on this topic).

4. I could also present on two other topics that are not directly related to legal writing:

a. Mentoring in the Legal Profession.

I have written several articles about mentoring in the legal profession and how I share my mistakes to mentor new lawyers. I have developed a set of value dilemmas that I faced in my legal practice and ask audience members to decide what they would do in similar circumstances. This presentation would appeal to law students.

b. Law School Teaching.

This presentation would be based on my recently published essay entitled *Talk Less, Smile More* in the Journal of Legal Education. I could use the article as a springboard for a discussion about effective teaching practices. I would design this as a participative workshop for faculty.

**In no more than 300 words, describe why a host school should consider you as a Visiting Scholar:**

I do not offer any earth-shattering advice about legal writing. Instead, I reinforce the well-known qualities of excellent legal writing (clarity, brevity, strong organization, rigor, zeal, and use of vivid language) by comparing legal writing to other kinds of writing. Why? Because it is interesting, helps people make connections to writers they already admire, and puts a little joy into legal writing.

My approach to legal writing scholarship builds on the fact that legal writing is, almost always, the most effective way to communicate legal analysis. Justice Kagan said, “To be a good legal writer, honestly, is to know the law, and to be a good writer.” Neither one of those tasks is easy. I acknowledge the challenge, but I encourage others to believe that they can always improve both their legal thinking and their legal writing.

I have worked with law students, lawyers, judges, and professors. But the student who has influenced me the most is me. I work to improve my writing and my understanding of the law every day; I suspect the quest will continue until I write my last word.

**Julie A. Oseid**  
MSL 400, 1000 LaSalle Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2015  
(651) 962-4948  
[jaoseid@stthomas.edu](mailto:jaoseid@stthomas.edu)

**Employment:**

Morrison Family Director of Lawyering Skills  
& Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas School of Law  
Courses: Lawyering Skills I, II, and III  
In(Famous) Trials  
Supervised Research and Writing  
Fall 2018 - present

Faculty Member, The National Judicial College  
Reno, NV  
March 2014 – present

Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas School of Law  
August 2013 – August 2018

Associate Professor, University of St. Thomas School of Law  
August 2005 – August 2013

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of St. Thomas School of Law  
August 2004 – June 2005

Associate, Oppenheimer, Wolff & Donnelly, Minneapolis  
Areas of practice: business litigation, products liability litigation,  
professional malpractice  
1987-1991

Adjunct Professor, University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis  
Course Taught: Legal Research and Writing  
1988-1989

Judicial Clerk, The Honorable John T. Noonan, Jr., San Francisco, CA  
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit  
1986

Law Clerk, Criminal Division, Hennepin County Attorney's Office  
1984-1986

## **Education:**

University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis  
J.D. magna cum laude 1986  
Graduated first in class  
Order of the Coif  
Notes and Comments Editor, Minnesota Law Review

University of Minnesota, Duluth  
B.A. summa cum laude 1983  
Majors: English and Communications  
Varsity Women's Tennis Team

Northland Community College, Thief River Falls, MN  
A.A., honors, 1981  
Women's Basketball and Men's Tennis Teams  
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, vice-president  
Student Council President

## **Publications:**

### **Book:**

Julie A. Oseid, *Communicators-in-Chief: Lessons in Persuasion from Five Eloquent American Presidents* (Carolina Academic Press 2017).

### **Law Review Articles:**

Julie A. Oseid, *Talk Less, Smile More*, 68 J. Legal Educ. \_\_\_\_ (forthcoming 2019).

Melissa Love Koenig, Julie A. Oseid, and Amy Vorenberg, *OK, Google? Will Artificial Intelligence Replace Human Lawyering?*, 102 Marq. L. Rev. \_\_\_\_ (forthcoming 2019).

Julie A. Oseid, *What Lawyers Can Learn from Edgar Allan Poe*, 15 Legal Communication & Rhetoric: J. ALWD 233 (2018).

Stephen D. Easton & Julie A. Oseid, "And Bad Mistakes? I've Made a Few": *Sharing Mistakes to Mentor New Lawyers*, 77 Alb. L. Rev. 865 (2014).

Julie A. Oseid, *The Power of Zeal: Teddy Roosevelt's Life and Writing*, 10 Legal Communication & Rhetoric: J. ALWD 125 (2013).

Julie A. Oseid, *The Power of Clarity: Ulysses S. Grant as a Model of Writing "So That There Could Be No Mistaking It,"* 9 Legal Communication & Rhetoric: J. ALWD 49 (2012).

Thomas C. Berg, Julie A. Oseid, and Joseph A. Orrino, *The Power of Rigor: James Madison as a Persuasive Writer*, 8 Legal Communication & Rhetoric: J. ALWD 37 (2011).

Julie A. Oseid, *The Power of Metaphor: Thomas Jefferson's "Wall of Separation between Church & State,"* 7 J. ALWD 123 (2010).

Julie A. Oseid & Stephen D. Easton, *The Trump Card: A Lawyer's Personal Conscience or Professional Duty?*, 10 Wyo. L. Rev. 415 (2010).

Julie A. Oseid, *The Power of Brevity: Adopt Abraham Lincoln's Habits*, 6 J. ALWD 28 (2009).

Julie A. Oseid, *When Big Brother is Watching [Out for] You: Mentoring Lawyers, Choosing a Mentor, and Sharing Ten Virtues from My Mentor*, 59 S.C. L. Rev. 393 (2008) (winner of the Warren E. Burger Writing Competition sponsored by the American Inns of Court).

Leah M. Christensen & Julie A. Oseid, *Navigating the Law Review Article Selection Process: An Empirical Study of Those With All the Power – Student Editors*, 59 S.C. L. Rev. 175 (2007).

The Honorable Paul H. Anderson & Julie A. Oseid, *A Decision Tree Takes Root in the Land of 10,000 Lakes: Minnesota's Approach to Judicial Federalism*, 70 Alb. L. Rev. 865 (2007).

Julie A. Oseid, *Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Using the Seventh-Inning Stretch to Teach Law Students*, 82 N.D. L. Rev. 465 (2006).

Julie A. Oseid, *It Happened to Me: Sharing Personal Value Dilemmas to Teach Ethics*, 12 Leg. Writing 105 (2006).

Julie A. Oseid, Student Author, *Defendants' Rights in Child Witness Competency Hearings: Establishing Constitutional Procedures for Sexual Abuse Cases*, 69 Minn. L. Rev. 1377 (1985).

### **Shorter Articles and Essays:**

"The Power of Brevity: Adopt Abraham Lincoln's Habits," St. Thomas Lawyer magazine, p. 22-25 (University of St. Thomas School of Law, Summer 2009).

"Feed Forward: Prior Students Serve as Ghost Mentors to Current Students," Vol. 22, No. 1, p. 7 The Second Draft (August 2007).

"My Best Class: All Rise," Vol. 20, No. 1, p. 19 The Second Draft (August 2005).

### **Other Professional Writing:**

Content Consultant for *How to Analyze the Works of Abraham Lincoln* (designed to help high school students understand critical theory) (2012).

### **Presentations:**

1. "Artisanal Advocacy: Using Narrative and Empathy in Briefs and Oral Argument to Reveal a Hidden Story" presented at the Eighteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, July 11-14, 2018 (Milwaukee, WI) (co-presented with Melissa Love Koenig, Associate Professor of Legal Writing, Marquette Law School, and

- Amy Vorenberg, Director of Legal Writing, University of New Hampshire School of Law).
2. “What Lawyers Can Learn from Edgar Allan Poe” presented at the Sixth Biennial Conference on Applied Storytelling, July 11-13, 2017 (American University Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.).
  3. “The Power of Brevity and Clarity: A Writing Workshop Based on the Writing Styles of Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant” presented at the PTAB (Patent Trial and Appeal Board) All Hands Meeting: Building on Excellence, June 28, 2017 (USPTO, Alexandria, Virginia).
  4. “What Lawyers Can Learn from Edgar Allan Poe” presented at the Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, December 10, 2016 (Portland, OR).
  5. “Teddy Roosevelt: The Story of How Zeal Shapes Persuasion” presented at the Seventeenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, July 10-14, 2016 (Portland, OR).
  6. “Brevity and Clarity in Judicial Opinion Writing” and “Editing Workshop” taught as part of the Advanced Skills for Appellate Judges course, The National Judicial College, April 25-28, 2016 (Napa Valley, CA).
  7. “Building a Story/Storey: Using Story during Oral Argument” presented with Prof. Melissa Greipp, Marquette University Law School, and Prof. Amy Vorenberg, University of New Hampshire School of Law, at the Southeastern Legal Writing Conference, January 22-23, 2016 (Miami, FL).
  8. “Teddy Roosevelt: The Story of How Zeal Shapes Persuasion” presented at the Fifth Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, July 21-23, 2015 (Seattle, WA).
  9. “And Bad Mistakes? I’ve Made a Few: Sharing Mistakes to Mentor New Professionals” presented with co-author Professor Steve Easton at the 2014 Annual Mentoring Conference at the University of New Mexico Mentoring Institute, October 22-24, 2014 (Albuquerque, New Mexico).
  10. “Teaching Appellate Judges How to Write with Brevity and Clarity” presented at a Judicial Education works-in-progress conference at the University of Missouri, October 9-10, 2014 (Columbia, Missouri).
  11. “Law *is* Rhetoric: A Guide to Using Rhetoric to Teach and Write about the Law” (panel presentation with Prof. Kirsten K. Davis, Stetson University College of Law

- and Kristen K. Tiscione, Georgetown University Law Center) presented at the 2014 Sixteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, June 29-July 2, 2014 (Philadelphia, PA).
12. Moderator for Scholarly Paper Presentation (“Historical Perspectives” panel presentation with Prof. Ken Chestek, University of Wyoming College of Law, David Cleveland, Valparaiso University Law School and Jeffrey Jackson, Washburn University School of Law) at the 2014 Sixteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, June 29-July 2, 2014 (Philadelphia, PA).
  13. “The *Scopes* Monkey Trial,” presented with co-panelist Professor Ed Larson following The Illusion Theater’s production of *Naked Darrow*, April 12, 2014 (Minneapolis, MN).
  14. “Brevity and Clarity in Judicial Opinion Writing” taught as part of the Advanced Skills for Appellate Judges course, The National Judicial College, March 17-20, 2014 (Reno, NV).
  15. “Feminine Voices in Law: The Four” presented at the Applied Legal Storytelling Conference (Chapter 4: Back to Where We Started), July 22-24, 2013 (London, UK).
  16. “Communicators-in-Chief: Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses Grant” presented at the Kansas Judicial Conference, June 19-21, 2013 (Wichita, KS).
  17. “Teaching Professionalism” presented at LWI Regional One-Day workshop, December 2, 2012 (Drake School of Law, Des Moines, IA).
  18. “American Presidents as Writing Heroes” presented at the Fifteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, May 29 – June 1, 2012 (Palm Desert, CA).
  19. “Lincoln’s Speeches as Examples of the Persuasive Power of Brevity” presented at LWI Regional One-Day workshop, December 2, 2011 (Hamline School of Law, St. Paul, MN).
  20. “American Presidents as Writing Heroes” presented at the 2011 Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, July 8-10, 2011 (Sturm College of Law, University of Denver).
  21. “A Room of One’s Own: Finding a Place for Legal Writing Scholarship” (panel presentation with Prof. Linda Berger, Mercer University School of Law; Prof. Jason Cohen, Rutgers School of Law - Camden; Prof. Suzianne Painter-Thorne, Mercer University School of Law; and Prof. Jennifer Sheppard, Mercer University School of

- Law) presented at the 2011 ALWD Conference, June 23-25, 2011 (Pacific McGeorge School of Law, Sacramento, CA).
22. “The Power of Brevity: Adopt Abraham Lincoln’s Habits” presented at the Fourteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, June 27-30, 2010 (Marco Island, FL).
  23. “The Trump Card: A Lawyer’s Personal Conscience or Professional Duty?” presented at the Wyoming Law Review Symposium (“Small Towns, Big Values: Professional Responsibility for Practitioners in Wyoming”), April 16, 2010 (Laramie, WY).
  24. “War Stories: Mentoring New Lawyers through Storytelling” presented at the Applied Legal Storytelling conference, July 22-24, 2009 (Portland, OR).
  25. “War Stories: Mentoring New Lawyers through Storytelling” colloquium presented at Marquette University School of Law in Milwaukee, WI, February 3, 2009.
  26. “Navigating the Law Review Article Selection Process: An Empirical Study of Those with All the Power – Student Editors” presented at Thirteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, July 14-17, 2008 (Indianapolis, IN).
  27. “Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Using the Seventh-Inning Stretch to Teach Law Students,” The Central Region LRW/Legal Writing Fifth Biennial Conference, October 5-6, 2007 (University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Kansas City, MO).
  28. “It Happened to Me: Sharing Personal Value Dilemmas to Teach Ethics,” Once Upon a Legal Time: Developing the Skills of Storytelling in Law Conference, July 18-20, 2007 (City University, London, UK).
  29. “It Happened to Me: Sharing Personal Value Dilemmas to Teach Ethics,” The Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, March 7-8, 2007 (University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV).
  30. “Reaching the Summit: Meeting Teaching Challenges and Working with Challenging Students” (co-presented with Prof. Jayne Kacer, Chapman University School of Law; Prof. Robin Wellford Slocum, Chapman University School of Law; and Prof. Nancy Soonpaa, Texas Tech University School of Law), Twelfth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, June 7-10, 2006 (Atlanta, GA).
  31. “Make ‘em Laugh: Using Humor to Teach Difficult Writing Concepts” (co-presented with Prof. Leah Christensen), The Rocky Mountain Regional Legal

Writing Conference, March 17-19, 2006 (The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, AZ).

**Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Presentations:**

1. “Untangled: Tips to Eliminate the Knots in Legal Writing,” CLE presentation, Minnesota Judicial Center, December 4, 2018 (St. Paul, MN) (co-presented with Randall Tietjen, partner at Robins Kaplan LLP).
2. “The Power of Clarity: Ulysses Grant,” CLE presentation to the Quill & Bagel society, Minnesota Judicial Center, December 14, 2017 (St. Paul, MN).

**Awards:**

1. Morrison Family Director of Lawyering Skills (inaugural titleholder), 2018.
2. Professor of the Year, University of St. Thomas School of Law, 2018 (selected by the graduating class).
3. University of St. Thomas School of Law, 2017 Mission Award: Dean’s Award for Outstanding Scholarship.
4. University of St. Thomas Women’s Law Student Association, 2012 Faculty Woman of the Year.
5. University of St. Thomas School of Law, 2010 Mission Award: Excellence in Professional Preparation.
6. University of St. Thomas Women’s Law Student Association, 2010 Faculty Woman of the Year.
7. University of St. Thomas School of Law, 2009 Mission Award: Dean’s Award for Outstanding Teaching.
8. 2007 Warren E. Burger Prize awarded by the American Inns of Court Foundation.
9. University of St. Thomas Women’s Law Student Association, 2007 Woman Faculty/Staff Member of the Year (first annual award).