



The Scrivener

Scribes – The American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects

Summer 2005

News from the 2005 Scribes Annual Luncheon Meeting

Scribes held its annual membership meeting at a luncheon on August 6, 2005, in Chicago during the annual meeting of the American Bar Association. Scribes' president for 2003–2005, Beverly Ray Burlingame, a partner in the Dallas-based law firm of Thompson & Knight LLP, presided at the luncheon. Thomson-West sponsored the luncheon, held at the Fairmont Hotel.

Scribes: A Record of Success and Growth

In 1951, Arthur T. Vanderbilt, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, proposed forming an organization of lawyers and law teachers interested in promoting good legal writing. In response, 41 like-minded lawyers convened at the 1953 ABA annual meeting in Boston to establish Scribes. Today, Scribes' membership is nearly 1,400 lawyers, judges, law professors, publishers, and legal editors who support the society's goal of promoting and recognizing excellence in legal writing.

In support of its goals, Scribes publishes *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing* and this quarterly newsletter, *The Scrivener*. It also confers three annual awards:

- the Scribes Book Award, presented at the ABA's annual meeting, for the best work of legal scholarship;
- the Scribes Law-Review Award, presented at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Law Reviews, for the best student writing in a law review; and
- the Scribes Brief-Writing Award, also presented at the ABA's annual meeting, for the best student

brief chosen from those selected as best in a national or regional moot-court competition.

Our New Officers and Directors

Norman Otto Stockmeyer was elected the 2005–2007 president of Scribes. Professor Stockmeyer previously served as Scribes' president-elect and as a longtime member of the board of directors. He is an emeritus professor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. The membership also elected Stuart H. Shiffman, an associate judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of the Circuit Court of Illinois, as its president-elect. Judge Shiffman previously served as Scribes treasurer and as a member of its board.

Two new directors of Scribes were elected at the meeting: Lee H. Rosenthal, a United States district judge for the Southern District of Texas, and Darby Dickerson, vice president and dean of the Stetson University College of Law. They replace Thomas M. Steele and Joseph Baca, who completed their terms. Steven R. Smith, president and dean of California Western School of Law, was reelected to the board.



New board member Judge Lee Rosenthal, new Executive Director Joe Kimble, and President Don LeDuc of Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

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A Special Presentation: Glen-Peter Ahlers

During the meeting, President Burlingame announced the resignation of Glen-Peter Ahlers, Sr., who stepped down as executive director. Professor Ahlers, who serves as associate dean for information services and professor of law at the Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law at Barry University, had served as executive director for the past eight years. President Burlingame presented a plaque to Professor Ahlers in recognition of his many years of dedicated service.

And finally, the winners are . . .

After the luncheon, 18 legal-writing books were presented as door prizes. All the prizes were written, donated, and inscribed by three Scribes board members: Richard Wydick, Bryan Garner, and Darby Dickerson. The prizes included *Plain English for Lawyers* (Wydick), *Black's Law Dictionary* (Garner), and the *ALWD Citation Manual* (Dickerson).

Our thanks to . . .

President Burlingame closed the meeting by thanking Thomson-West, which has generously sponsored the Scribes Annual Luncheon for many years. She also thanked other financial contributors to Scribes programs, including Carolina Academic Press, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Barry University School of Law, and Thompson & Knight.

Finally, many thanks are due to the Scribes members who made the 2005 luncheon meeting such a success: Professor Thomas M. Steele, chair of the Annual Meeting Committee, and his committee members, Professor Ahlers, Roger Newman, and John Williams.

President's Column

Norman Otto Stockmeyer
Emeritus Professor,
Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Let me begin by introducing myself. I am the 41st President of Scribes. I got to this position by hanging around too long, as one by one the real leaders served and moved on. Nevertheless, I've had some experience heading up law-related organizations. I hope to apply whatever lessons I have learned and whatever skills I possess to the betterment of our society.



Norman Otto
Stockmeyer,
President of Scribes.

My Background

I was invited to join Scribes in 1981. After submitting a couple of articles for publication in *The Scrivener*, I was elected to the board of directors in 1994. I headed up the Brief-Award Committee for several years. Then I served terms as treasurer, secretary, and vice president before my election as President in August. Under our constitution, officers serve two-year terms. Yikes — that's eight President's Columns to write!

I've also devoted myself to building our membership. I do this by sending congratulatory letters to authors of legal articles that I enjoy. I suggest that they might qualify for membership in Scribes and enclose a brochure. Through these efforts and those of others (and the advent of the institutional membership), the number of Scribes members from Michigan has increased from 3 at the time I joined in 1981 to 224 today. We're now first in the nation in Scribes members,

ahead of second-place Texas (216) and third-place California (192). Membership-building is something we all need to work on if Scribes is to thrive.

As for my previous leadership experience, I was



Beverly Ray Burlingame passes the
gavel to newly elected President
Stockmeyer.

dean (chapter president) of the Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity at the University of Michigan in the early 1960s. In the early '70s, I was chair of the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section. And I was president of the Michigan State Bar Foundation in the mid-'80s. I thought I was done with that sort of thing until the Nominating Committee came calling earlier this year.

My Teammates

Let me introduce my fellow officers:

Our new vice president/president-elect is the Honorable **Stuart Shiffman**, associate circuit judge for the state of Illinois. Judge Shiffman joined the Scribes Board of Directors in 1994 and previously served as treasurer. He chairs our Nominating Committee.

Reelected secretary was **John C. Williams**, who is principal attorney editor with Thomson West. He has served on the board since 1995 and as secretary since 2003. He has also chaired our Membership Committee.

Our treasurer is **Michael B. Hyman**, a principal in the Chicago law firm Much Shelist. He organized the legal-writing programs that Scribes has cosponsored at the last three ABA annual meetings, and he chairs our Book-Award Committee. He was elected to the board in 2004.

Beverly Ray Burlingame, as immediate past president, continues on the board. I will look to her for guidance as well during my turn at the wheel. She is a partner in the Dallas-based law firm Thompson & Knight LLP.

All of us will be depending greatly on our new executive director, Professor **Joe Kimble** at Thomas M. Cooley Law School, a member of the board since 2001. He was managing editor of *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing*, 1996–2000, and has been editor in chief since 2001.

Following Glen-Peter Ahlers's announcement of his retirement, effective in August, a special committee of past presidents recommended Professor Kimble as our new executive director and Thomas M. Cooley Law School as our new home office. The board quickly and overwhelmingly ratified the recommendation (Joe and I abstained, for obvious reasons).

That's my cabinet. In my next column, I'll introduce the rest of my team: the other members of our board of directors and the editorial staff of our excellent publications.

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Need Your Scribes Membership Certificate?

If you have never received your Scribes membership certificate or you would like a replacement for any reason, please send an e-mail to kimblej@cooley.edu. Include the year you joined (as best you can remember). We'd be happy to send you another.

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Submit Your Articles

Please send items for upcoming issues of *The Scrivener* (electronically or on disk) to the address shown below.

Deadlines

Fall	November 15
Winter	February 15
Spring	April 15

Jane Siegel
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 Lansing, Michigan 48901
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My First Tidbit

My predecessor instituted the practice of including with each of her President's Columns a legal-writing tidbit. I intend to follow that precedent.

In her first legal-writing tidbit, in the Summer 2003 issue of *The Scrivener*, President Burlingame tackled the superstition against beginning a sentence with the word *but*. She rightly pointed out that rather than being incorrect or too informal for legal writing, *but* is sometimes the best way to start a sentence.

How far can the battle against this superstition be carried? Is it ever proper English to begin a paragraph with *but*? An entire chapter? My quick survey has produced an example of each, both by noted writers.

No less an authority than Bryan Garner began a paragraph with *but* in our own journal:

But (someone might say) we're talking here about *formal legal writing*, not newspapers!¹

And Stephen Ambrose, no slouch of a writer (*Nothing Like It in the World, Undaunted Courage*), began a chapter in his 2001 book *The Wild Blue*:

But the approaching end of winter brought little improvement in the weather.²

As these professional writers illustrate, it is not necessarily poor form to use *but* to begin a sentence, a paragraph, or even a book chapter. Is that as far as the point can be pursued? Is it possible that an entire book beginning with *but* is out there somewhere? Or a book title?

A recent search of Amazon.com turned up a music album by Phil Collins entitled *But Seriously* and an R-rated movie *But I'm a Cheerleader* ("A comedy of sexual disorientation"). I even found a children's book titled *But That Wasn't the Best Part*. I could not, however, locate a serious book of nonfiction with a title beginning with *but*. If you find one, let me know.

Endnotes

- ¹ Bryan A. Garner, "On Beginning Sentences with *But*," 3 SCRIBES J. L. WRITING 87, 91 (1992) (italics in original).
- ² Stephen E. Ambrose, *THE WILD BLUE: THE MEN AND BOYS WHO FLEW THE B-24S OVER GERMANY* 225 (2001).

Scribes Executive Office Moves

The Scribes Executive Office has moved to Thomas M. Cooley Law School. The new executive director is Joseph Kimble. The new address is Thomas M. Cooley Law School, P.O. Box 13038, Lansing, Michigan 48901. Please address all future correspondence (address changes, dues payments, and so on) to Professor Kimble at that address. Or e-mail him at kimblej@cooley.edu. Scribes wants to thank Glen-Peter Ahlers, along with Barry University School of Law, for his long service to Scribes and for the school's great support.



Retiring Executive Director Glen-Peter Ahlers, Sr., receiving a plaque from President Beverly Ray Burlingame in recognition of his service to Scribes.

Professor Geoffrey Stone Wins the Scribes 2005 Book Award

In October 2001, Professor Geoffrey R. Stone stepped down as provost of the University of Chicago. When he made the announcement, he was asked what he was going to do with his free time now that he was relinquishing his administrative duties at the university. Not knowing the answer until the words escaped his lips, Professor Stone said that he was going to write a book about free speech in wartime. The result was *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime from the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism* — the winner of the 2005 Scribes Book Award.

Professor Stone, the Harry Kalven, Jr. Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, accepted the award at the luncheon meeting August 6 in Chicago. Michael B. Hyman, chair of the Scribes Book-Award Committee, presented the award. Other members of the committee are President Burlingame, Robert Markle, Professor Steve Sheppard, Judge Stuart Shiffman, and Randall Tietjen.



Book-Award Committee Chair Michael Hyman and the winning author, University of Chicago Law Professor Geoffrey R. Stone.

Professor Stone has been a member of the law faculty at the University of Chicago since 1973. From 1987 to 1993, he served as dean of the law school, and from 1993 to 2002 he served as provost of the university. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was editor in chief of the law review. Professor Stone was law clerk to Judge J. Skelly Wright of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and to Justice William J. Brennan of the Supreme Court of the United States. Professor Stone teaches in the areas of constitutional law and evidence, and he writes primarily about constitutional law.



Book-Award winner Prof. Stone autographs copies for Scribes members.

Perilous Times received the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award for 2005 and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in 2004; was a finalist for the American Bar Association's 2005 Silver Gavel Award; and was selected as among the most notable books of 2004 by the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Philadelphia Enquirer*, and *Christian Science Monitor*. *Perilous Times* is published by W. W. Norton & Company.

John Marshall Team Wins 2005 Brief-Writing Award

Scribes presented its 2005 Brief-Writing Award to a student team from John Marshall Law School in Chicago. Their brief, "The Case Concerning the Vessel Mari Mairu," was originally submitted to the Jessup International Moot Court Competition. The case involved piracy, an environmental disaster, and the shipping of hazardous materials through territorial waters without consent. Shama Patari, Juliet Bikbova, Sara Boyd, and Linda Burns were team members; Stacey Kalamaras was team manager. Dean Patricia Mell and Professor Mark Wojcik of John Marshall were both present at the Scribes luncheon to receive the award. Ms. Patari spoke to Scribes members about her team's work.

Charles Dewey Cole, Jr., a director of Scribes and a longtime member of its Brief-Writing Committee, presented the award to the team. Other members of the Brief-Writing Committee who selected this year's winner were Judge Kenneth L. Gartner, Chair; Justice Joseph Baca; Daniel R. Caron; Stephen Fink; Michael S. Fried; Robert Lindefjeld; Christy Nisbett; Professor Laurel Oates; and Judge Mark Painter.



The presentation of plaques to the winner of the Brief-Writing Award, a team from John Marshall Law School; pictured are (L to R): student team member Shama Patari; presenter Dewey Cole, Award-Committee member; Dean Patricia Mell; and team coach Professor Mark Wojcik.

Thank You to Our Volunteer Screeners

These people read multiple briefs that were nominated for the 2005 Brief-Writing Award and selected the best eight to be reviewed by the committee. Scribes extends a sincere thank-you for their hard work. (An asterisk indicates that the screener read briefs in both 2004 and 2005.)

California Western School of Law

Roberta (Bobbie) Thyfault

Florida Coastal School of Law

Leigh Scales

Franklin Pierce Law Center

Linda Anderson*

University of Houston Law Center

Tobi Tabor*

John Marshall Law School

Ardath Hamann*

Lewis & Clark Law School

Sandy Patrick

Northern Kentucky University

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Adam Todd*

Oklahoma City University

School of Law

Greg Eddington

Seattle University School of Law

Mary Bowman*

Mimi Samuel

Stetson University College of Law

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Beth Youngdale

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Mara Kent*

Evelyn Tombers

Washburn University School of Law

Lyn Goering*

Western New England College School of Law

Beth Cohen*

Jeanne Kaiser

Myra Orlen*

Original Intent versus Evolution: The Legal-Writing Edition

Diane P. Wood of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit was the featured speaker at the annual meeting held recently in Chicago. Judge Wood earned her law degree at The University of Texas School of Law. She then clerked for Judge Irving L. Goldberg of the Fifth Circuit — and later for Justice Harry A. Blackmun of the United States Supreme Court.

Before joining the Seventh Circuit bench, Judge Wood had a distinguished career both as a Justice Department attorney and as an academic. She still teaches at the law school of the University of Chicago, where she served as an associate dean. President Clinton appointed her to the court of appeals in 1995. Judge Wood is a member of the Council of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Excerpts of Judge Wood's remarks appear below.

This title suggests a discussion that you might expect to hear in a meeting devoted to constitutional issues. But let me assure you that I do not intend to comment on the appointment of John Roberts to the Supreme Court or on the debate between Justices Scalia and Breyer about the proper sources to consult when interpreting the Constitution.

Instead, in keeping with the spirit of Scribes, I would like to explore the written word and especially the written word for a legal audience — judges, legislators, lawyers, and clients. I have long had a great interest in linguistics and the study of particular languages. For me, these fields are truly roads not taken, for reasons that have long since become irrelevant. Briefly put, I wanted to devote myself to something with more immediate social impact than linguistics can boast.

But the interest has remained, and I have recently been listening to Teaching Company tapes on “The History of Language” — lectures by John McWhorter, who also wrote *The Power of Babel: A Natural History of Language* several years ago. McWhorter's message is a simple one, and it is one that I find hard to resist: Language is a living organism that changes, evolves, and shifts over time. There is nothing inherently

good or bad about these shifts, which are reflected in the development of dialects, creoles, and eventually full-blown distinct languages. As this process unfolds, the written word lags behind the spoken word, but written language also changes — and changes legitimately — over time.



Our featured speaker, Judge Diane Wood of the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

“Originalism”

It is much harder to pin down a time when the English language — or perhaps I should say the American version of that language — was settled, so that we could look back to that time as a point of reference for grammar, spelling, style, and usage. Constitutional originalists have the luxury of a specific date when the document was written, or when it was put out for ratification, or when the last ratification necessary to bring it into effect took place, on which to base their arguments.

Let's say that “original” here means the style they were teaching me in school in the 1960s. Rules were rules then — no split infinitives, proper use of *who* and *whom*, proper use of *can* and *may*, never begin a sentence with the word *And* or *But*, never end a sentence with a preposition. And no self-respecting person would use a contraction in formal writing.

I studied law under one person who followed this scripture: Professor Charles Alan Wright (Charlie to his friends). And I later worked for another person who did so just as scrupulously: Justice Harry A. Blackmun. Today, I read copious amounts of other people's prose — between 1,000 and 2,000 pages per week during periods when the court is in session, just to prepare to hear 6 to 12 cases, not to mention all the additional reading of cases and secondary materials required to

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Original Intent versus Evolution: The Legal-Writing Edition

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draft opinions. I can tell you without any qualification that most of the rules I have just mentioned have gone the way of the fountain pen and the computer punch card. Infinitives are split so frequently that only an old fuddy-duddy like me still thinks that there is a rule prohibiting this practice. Modifiers dangle precipitously, the distinction between *which* and *that* is all but lost, and the art of spelling is too. *Principals* become *principles* with alarming frequency: I cannot offer you even an estimate of the number of times I have read about a company's *principle* place of business or a *principle* reason. Without wanting to sound like Lynne Truss, of *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* fame or infamy, I also experience a momentary start whenever I see *it's* used as a possessive adjective.

Maybe I am an originalist after all. But does, or can, originalism work for legal writing — or indeed for any kind of writing?

Evolutionary Language

Language evolves. Oral evolution occurs before the written word reflects the change. I do not know if the lag is a constant distance, or if it expands and contracts over time. But it is there.

Let's consider some natural oral changes that we have all observed. First, we have seen grammatical simplifications: eliminating the *who/whom* distinction; eliminating the *shall/will* distinction for first-person, future-tense verbs (only in America, of course); use of more flexible sentence structures (“The fix I found myself in”; “The fix in which I found myself”).

Second, and more controversially, words themselves change through various natural oral processes. Latin purists will speak of a male *alumnus* of the University of Chicago and a female *alumna* and will dutifully follow the respective Latin plural forms *alumni* and *alumnae*. But, to put it charitably, Latin is quite a few years behind us as a *lingua franca*. Speakers instinctively simplify this set of words by dropping the endings altogether: *alum* or *alums*, depending on how many there are.

Simplification through adoption of the male form is out of favor. (I never liked it much; as someone with a tendency to be literal, I never felt particularly included in the set of all “men.”) We do not see people using the term *alum* in formal writing yet, but that day may arrive.

Words also change in oral language because people tend to make them easier to pronounce. A child — and maybe even some of us — is likely to say “I wanna go swimming,” not “I wanT To go swimming.” I found many examples of this kind of change in a book by Paul Brians called *Common Errors in English Usage*. My favorites include “for all intensive purposes,” “shutter to think,” and, best of all, “nip it in the butt.”

Finally, of course, we just make up new words. How many of us were talking about *googling* something ten

years ago? *Oogling*, maybe, but that's an entirely different problem. The word *e-mail* is now firmly ensconced in English and most other languages (although here, as elsewhere, the *Academie Française* has decided that a demonstrably French term is required, so if you're in Paris, you're sending a *couri-el*). And I'm not going to even

“The hard question for legal writers, like all other writers, is what balance to strike between the tried-and-true rules of grammar and a more energetic, if less orthodox, style.”

—Judge Diane Wood

touch the subject of the language you might hear in a college dormitory, on the streets, or in rap music. My colleague Terry Evans caused an enormous stir in the blogosphere when, in a case called *United States v. Murphy*,¹ he announced that the court was taking the liberty of changing the spelling of the word *hoe* from H-O-E to H-O, following the practice of the rapper Ludacris.

Blending the Old and the New

The hard question for legal writers, like all other writers, is what balance to strike between the tried-and-true rules of grammar and a more energetic, if less orthodox, style. Err too far on the former side, and you will sound like Henry Adams or Jane Austen (if you are lucky). Err too far on the latter side, and you will sound unprofessional. Worse, if you decide to liberate yourself fully from the rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation, you run a serious risk of writing something that is ambiguous, poorly organized, and full of unintentional shifts in meaning. Borrowing again from Brians's list, it is one thing to speak of an *interment*, and quite another

to speak of *internment*. A *mantle* is not at all the same thing as a *mantel*, but they are both English words, and a spell-checker will not help you out.

One way in which I try to find the middle ground is to read aloud the opinion or article I've written and see if it contains any words or expressions that no one would *ever* use in written speech. When was the last time you said to someone over the dinner table something like this: "In the instant situation, we should do X"? Would you ever say, "This chocolate-chip-cookie recipe provides that one cup of sugar should be used, not two"? Yet lawyers and judges constantly talk about "the instant case," and they find it almost impossible to avoid saying, "The statute provides that [whatever it says]."

It is no accident, in my opinion, that the best-written legal writing avoids these expressions. Remembering that oral usage is going to be ahead of written usage, you can scrub your prose of the worst archaic expressions (to which lawyers are prone) through the simple expedient of testing whether you or anyone else would ever say that thing. It is risky to be too innovative, though, at least in formal writing. Judge Richard Posner is considered daring by some people because he has decided that it is permissible to use contractions in all writing, even the most formal. Wow. But simple, direct writing that avoids clumsy, complex clauses is always welcome. A lively vocabulary is, too. It can get confusing, case after case, to read only about what Petitioner argues and what Respondent retorts. I prefer names: Smith says this; Company A responds that. It helps transform the facts into a real story — a snippet of human life in which some problem arose that the court is being asked to resolve.

Undoubtedly, I have been preaching to the choir, but it is always a pleasure to step back and think about the craft that allows us to communicate with the rest of the world. My hope is that you will all avoid the ten-clause sentence, Latinisms, and jargon like *instant* and *hereinafter*. And I hope that you will be a bit daring with your style. Make the judge look forward to your part of that 1,500 pages a week, and your case is more than half won.

Endnote

¹ 406 F.3d 857 (7th Cir. 2005).

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From Our Peevish Readers

We have a difficult time believing that of all our members — almost 1,400 of you — only three of you have been annoyed by some bit of legal writing in the past few months. Did the warmth of summer suffuse you with warm feelings toward all legal writing, no matter how inane, inappropriate, or just plain wrong it was? It's time to become cold and critical once again. Send in your pet peeves! (Judges, you've certainly seen plenty of words and phrases that peeve you. We invite your wrath.)



Sue Liemer, professor and director of lawyering skills at Southern Illinois University School of Law, wrote:

- My pet peeve is writing two prepositions in a row. It's a great way to pick up the cadence of certain rural American dialects, which is not generally the goal of attorneys when they write. Try it, and you'll see what I mean. Think of a simple sentence with a preposition in it. Then add a second preposition, right after the first one. You, too, will sound like a hillbilly.

Examples:

"He concealed the weapon down beneath the car seat."

"The fire started over out behind the shed."

Professor Rick Bales, from Northern Kentucky University's Chase College of Law, wrote:

- I'm peeved when writers tell me how I should feel. For example, "The issue is of great importance." A friend, proofing a paper I wrote in law school, put it this way: A good sportswriter will never write, "The game was exciting." Instead, the writer will write the article in a way that makes the reader feel the game's excitement.
- I'm also peeved about words like *clearly*, *obviously*, and *interestingly*. Writers should use their writing to make the proposition clear or obvious or interesting. *Clearly* invariably signifies either that the proposition is unresolved and the writer wants to distract my attention away from that fact, or that the proposition is resolved, but the writer is too lazy to explain why.

Gail S. Stephenson, Director of Legal Analysis & Writing and assistant professor of law at the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, e-mailed this peeve:

- I'm peeved about writers who assume that all state appellate courts are "courts of appeals." Just because the feds have courts of appeals doesn't mean every jurisdiction does! Louisiana, California, and Florida have courts of appeal. I tell my students that a lawyer who writes the court's name incorrectly gives the judge the impression that the lawyer does not know what he or she is doing.
- Closely aligned with getting the court wrong is getting the title of the presiding jurist wrong. In a court system where intermediate appellate jurists are called "judges" and only the jurists of the highest court are called "justices," a lawyer doesn't score brownie points by referring to a judge as "justice."

(And if you're not sure about the name of a court, just refer to Appendix 1 in your ALWD Citation Manual.)



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News from Members

No news? No accomplishments, awards, publications? Only one member of Scribes kind enough to send us his news? Perhaps you've all been on vacation. Now is the time to begin doing something—and then telling us all about it. Send your news to *The Scrivener* by e-mail to siegelj@cooley.edu.

Steven H. Sholk announced that his article “A Guide to New Jersey Corporate Political Action Committees After the 2004 Campaign Finance Legislation and Executive Order” has been published in Volume 29, Number 1 of the *Seton Hall Legislative Journal*.

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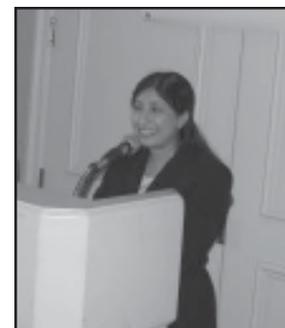
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Left: Dean Patricia Mell, of John Marshall Law School, chats with a Scribes member.

Middle: Charles Dewey Cole, Jr., announcing the winners of the Brief-Writing Award.

Right: Shama Patari, speaking on behalf of her team from John Marshall Law School, winners of the Brief-Writing Award.

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