



THE Scrivener

Fall 2018

Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers

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Scribblings from the President

By Scribes President Mark Wojcik

As expressed in the Constitution of our organization, our goals are: “(1) to foster a feeling of fraternity among those who write about the law — and especially among its members; (2) to create an interest in writing about the history, philosophy, and language of the law and about those who make, interpret, and enforce it; (3) to help and encourage people who write about the law; and (4) above all, to promote a clear, succinct, and forceful style in legal writing.” Although nothing has changed in our goals, this issue of *The Scrivener* provides you with other changes in the updated Constitution and Bylaws of Scribes – The American Society of Legal Writers.



The Scribes Constitution creates a category of emeritus board members, who serve for renewable three-year terms. Upon his retirement from the Scribes Board of Directors, Christopher Wren of Wisconsin became the first person elected as an emeritus board member. We will value the contributions of our emeritus board members and we welcome their continued participation in Scribes.

The Scribes Bylaws facilitate membership in Scribes. We have four categories of full members, two categories of associate members, and one category of student-editor members. Full membership in Scribes is a prestigious honor that recognizes specific contributions in legal writing from members of the legal profession around the world. Full membership is open to “[a] member of the legal profession in any country . . . if that person has: (a) published a book on a legal subject; (b) published two

Reminder!

Join us for our 2019 CLE on **Friday, April 12** in Washington D.C. at the Law Library of Congress. [Contact Philip Johnson](#) with questions.

Submissions

Please send items for upcoming issues of *The Scrivener* to Maureen Collins at 7collins@jmls.edu.

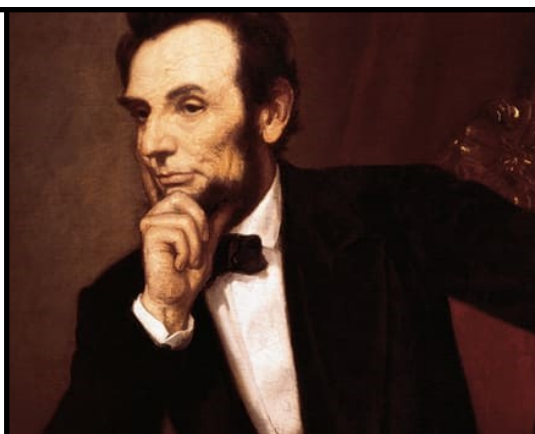
or more articles on legal subjects in a journal, magazine, or newsletter; (c) published two or more opinions as a judge; (d) served as an editor of a legal publication; or (e) received an award or recognition from Scribes." The last category would include all those individuals who have won best-brief awards or best law-review article awards from Scribes, as well as our book awards and lifetime-achievement awards. Members of the legal profession who do not satisfy one of these five categories are welcome to join Scribes as Associate Members, as are other individuals who are not members of the legal profession but who otherwise qualify for membership.

Institutional membership is open to any ABA-approved law school and to any federal or state appellate court. When a law school or court becomes an institutional member, each faculty member or judge who satisfies the membership requirements becomes a full member of Scribes. The revised bylaws also extend institutional membership (upon approval by the Scribes Board) to law firms and other legal organizations. We hope that law firms and legal organizations take advantage of this opportunity.

And in addition to the membership category of student-editors, we are encouraging law schools to start Student Chapters of Scribes. Texas Tech University and The John Marshall Law School in Chicago were the first two law schools to start such chapters, and the student organizers stand ready to help other law schools likewise launch additional student chapters. We hope that the officers and members of student chapters will later join Scribes as a full or associate member. We see these student chapters as both a long-term tool for ensuring the continued membership base of the parent organization and as a way of further promoting our organization's goals of fostering fraternity among legal writers, creating an interest in writing about the history, philosophy, and language of the law, helping and encouraging people who write about the law, and promoting a clear, succinct, and forceful style in legal writing.

Thank you for your continued support of Scribes – The American Society of Legal Writers.

Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.
~ Abraham Lincoln



Scribes Constitution

Article 1 — Name and Goals

The name of this organization is Scribes — The American Society of Legal Writers. Its goals are:

- 1) to foster a feeling of fraternity among those who write about the law — and especially among its members;
- 2) to create an interest in writing about the history, philosophy, and language of the law and about those who make, interpret, and enforce it;
- 3) to help and encourage people who write about the law; and
- 4) above all, to promote a clear, succinct, and forceful style in legal writing.

Article 2 — Membership

1. Qualifications. A member of the legal profession in any country is eligible for Scribes membership if that person has:

- (a) published a book on a legal subject;
- (b) published two or more articles on legal subjects in a journal, magazine, or newsletter;
- (c) published two or more opinions as a judge;
- (d) served as an editor of a legal publication; or
- (e) received an award or recognition from Scribes.

2. Categories. The Board of Directors may create categories of membership, including special categories for those who would not otherwise qualify for membership.

3. Resignation or Expulsion. A member may resign at any time by filing a written resignation with the Executive Director. A member may be expelled for good reason by a four-fifths vote of the Board.

Article 3 — Board of Directors

1. Function. The governing and administrative body of Scribes is its Board of Directors.

2. How Constituted. The Board consists of the following members: the President, Past President, Vice President (President-Elect), Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor in Chief of *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing*, a representative of Scribes' host school, and any emeritus members chosen by the Board, together with nine elected members. The Executive Director serves as a nonvoting member unless he or she is the host school's representative.

3. Terms of Office; Vacancy. The officers serve a two-year term, as stated in Article 4. The Past President serves a two-year term. Each of the nine elected members serves a three-year term. An emeritus board member serves a three-year term, which is renewable. The Editor in Chief of the

Journal serves at the Board's pleasure, as does the Executive Director unless he or she is the host school's representative. A vacancy in an elected member's position may be filled by the Board for the rest of that member's term.

4. Board Meetings. The Board meets at an annual Board meeting called by the President with 30 days' notice to the Board, and at any other time agreed to by a majority of the Board. The President may also call an electronic meeting by asking Board members to vote electronically on a matter. For electronic meetings, the President must give the Board at least 5 days to vote, and the meeting must conform to the law of the state where Scribes is incorporated.

5. Quorum and Voting. At any Board meeting, a majority of the Board constitutes a quorum. Decisions are by a majority of the Board members present, unless the meeting is an electronic meeting. At electronic meetings, decisions are by a majority of Board members who vote.

6. Records. The Secretary, the Executive Director, or a designate must prepare the minutes of a Board meeting and file them with the Executive Director.

Article 4 — Officers

1. How Constituted. The officers consist of a President, a Vice President (President-Elect), a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

2. Term of Office; Vacancy. Each officer serves a two-year term. On extraordinary occasions, the Board may recommend to the Nominating Committee that an officer's term be extended. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President succeeds to that office for the rest of the President's term. A vacancy in any other office must be filled by the Board for the rest of that person's term.

Article 5 — Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors

1. Nominating Committee. The President must appoint a Nominating Committee of at least five members. Every other year, the Nominating Committee must nominate the four officers. Each year, the Nominating Committee must nominate Board members to fill expiring terms. It may also from time to time nominate emeritus members. The President may treat the Nominating Committee as a standing committee or may name a new committee each year.

2. Report of the Committee. The Nominating Committee's report must be filed with the Executive Director and provided to the Board at its annual meeting.

Article 6 — Committees

With the Board's advice, the President may appoint the committees that seem necessary to carry out the goals of Scribes. The life of each committee ends at the annual membership meeting, after which the President may appoint the same or reconstituted committees.

Article 7 — Adopting and Amending Bylaws

Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or rescinded at any annual Board meeting by a majority of Board members present. The proposed change may be submitted to the Executive Director before the meeting or raised during the meeting.

Article 8 — Amending This Constitution

This Constitution may be amended in the same manner as the bylaws, except that a two-thirds vote of Board members present is required.

Revised 13 April 2018

Scribes Bylaws

Article 1 — Membership

1. Full Members

a. Four Categories. There are four categories of full membership:

- regular member
- sustaining member
- life member
- institutional member

Any ABA-approved law school or any federal or state appellate court may become an institutional member — in which case each faculty member or judge who meets the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Article 2, section 1, becomes a Scribes member. In appropriate circumstances, any other deserving legal organization or law firm may become an institutional member by a majority vote of the Board — in which case the Executive Director, under guidelines established by the Board, may determine how many of its members qualify as Scribes members.

b. Determining Eligibility. The Executive Director must determine whether a person meets the eligibility requirements for full membership. The requirements should be liberally construed, and the Executive Director may rely on the information provided in the application form.

2. Associate Members

a. Members of the Legal Profession. A member of the legal profession who is not otherwise qualified for membership but shares the goals in the Constitution, Article 1, may be approved for associate membership on the Executive Director's recommendation.

b. Persons Who Are Not Members of the Legal Profession. A person who is not a member of the legal profession but is otherwise qualified for membership may be approved for associate membership on the Executive Director's recommendation.

c. Dues and Rights. An associate member must pay the same dues as a regular member. An associate member has no right to vote or to be elected to the Board but has all the other rights of membership.

3. Student-Editor Members

Any student member of a law journal may become a student-editor member for one year by paying \$15. After one year, the membership may be renewed for another year only if the student is still in law school. A student-editor has no right to be elected to the Board but has all the other rights of membership.

Article 2 — Dues

1. Amount. Each full member must pay dues as follows:

- regular member — \$65 annually
- sustaining member — \$100 annually
- life member — \$1,000 as a one-time contribution
- institutional member — \$350 annually for an institution with fewer than 10 eligible members of its own; \$650 annually for an institution with 10 to 100 eligible members; and for an organization with more than 100 eligible members, \$650 annually plus \$20 for each additional member over 100

2. When Payable. Dues are payable each year on a date set by the Board. A person or institution

who joins less than 6 months before that date is treated as having paid for the year after that date. The Board may remit a member's dues under special circumstances.

3. Default. A member in default must be given at least one notice of the default. A member in default for two years ceases to be a member.

Article 3 — Officers

1. Duties. The officers must perform the duties ordinarily performed by such officers, together with the duties prescribed by the Constitution and these bylaws, or by a decision of the Board that does not conflict with the Constitution or these bylaws.

2. Finances. At each annual Board meeting and at any other time the Board requests, the Treasurer must report on the finances of Scribes and the funds passing through the Treasurer's hands. Throughout the year, the Executive Director must keep accurate records of the income and expenses of Scribes. The President may ask a licensed public accountant to examine and audit any Treasurer's report, along with the records of Scribes.

Scribes Institutional Members—Law Schools

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| Barry University, Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law | Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark |
| Baylor Law School Legal Writing Center | College |
| California Western School of Law | Oklahoma City University School of Law |
| Chapman University, Dale E. Fowler School of Law | Saint Louis University School of Law |
| Charleston School of Law | Seattle University School of Law |
| Chicago-Kent College of Law | South Texas College of Law |
| Duke University School of Law | Southwestern Law School |
| Florida Coastal School of Law | Stetson University College of Law |
| Golden Gate University School of Law,
San Francisco | Suffolk University Law School |
| Hofstra University, Maurice A. Deane School of Law | Syracuse University College of Law |
| Mercer University School of Law | Texas A&M University |
| Mississippi College School of Law | Texas Tech University School of Law |
| Northern Kentucky University - Chase College of Law | The John Marshall Law School |
| | University of Akron, C. Blake McDowell Law Center |

University of Arkansas at Little Rock,
William H. Bowen School of Law
University of Houston Law Center
University of La Verne College of Law
University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law
University of Missouri School of Law
University of Nevada, Las Vegas,
William S. Boyd School of Law
University of Oklahoma Law Center
Washburn University School of Law

Western Michigan University—Cooley Law School
Western New England University School of Law

Scribes Institutional Members—Courts

Alaska Appellate Court
Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania
Missouri South District Court of Appeals
The Supreme Court of Texas
Texas 14th Court of Appeals

New Members

Benjamin Able
Washington, DC
Patricia Aloï
Perth, Australia
Matthew Bliss
Ogdensburg, New York
Jeremiah Bourgeois
Monroe, Washington
Cara Brousseau
Albany, New York
Helena Cabrera**
Armillá Granada, Spain
Cory Chambers**
San Diego, California
William Cross
Denver, Colorado
Jonathan Feigenbaum
Boston, Massachusetts

Heather Gram
Greensboro, North Carolina
Robert Higgason
Spring, Texas
Stephanie Huffnagle
Lancaster, New York
Mary Korkodian**
San Diego, California
Edward Lester
Petaluma, California
Linzey McCartney
Washington, DC
Cullen McNeece
Aberdeen, South Dakota
Gary Perko
Tallahassee, Florida
John Rice
Knoxville, Tennessee

L. Rex Sears
Salt Lake City, Utah
Richard Travers
Borwal, Australia
Holly Vaughn Wagner
Dover, Delaware
Celia Verrier
New York, New York
Katherine Vukadin*
Houston, Texas

* Sustaining Member
** Student-Editor Member