

From the Editor

The *Scribes Journal* has always been a potpourri for connoisseurs of legal writing. This volume is no exception. Our main articles cover a range of topics — from empirical proof of how plain language saves time and money, to a verbal tic that affects more than a few famous trial lawyers, to the ten most notable changes in the new *Bluebook*.

Since so many of our readers are judges, we've included as the centerpiece of this volume three little-known gems on judicial writing. But they're not just for judges — they offer valuable insights to writers of every sort.

And there's much more: a tribute to Reed Dickerson; a list of Scribes Book Award winners from the past three decades; notes on brief-writing, jury instructions, and copspeak; and President Clinton's well-publicized edict on plain English.

As a public service, Matthew Bender has generously agreed to print and distribute the *Journal*. We look forward to working with this fine publisher in the years to come.

—Bryan A. Garner

