

## From the Editor

I read this sentence in a respected journal: “How the teaching of criminal law and its place in the curriculum might change if these issues — which include accountability, alternate dispute resolution mechanisms, and creative sentencing options among others — were part of it, is a relatively open question.”

I doubt that you’ll find a sentence like that in *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing*. An enormous amount of work — almost all of it done by four editors — goes into formatting, editing, and cite-checking the *Journal*.

The articles in this issue should, as always, appeal to judges, lawyers, writing teachers, and others with a professional interest in good legal writing. We report on an empirical study of judicial opinions, we respond to another misguided critic of plain language, we describe lawyers’ ethical lapses in writing, we catalogue the status of legal-writing professors at every law school, and we continue with our “Best of” series.

I’m pleased to say that the last volume of the *Scribes Journal* was distributed to almost 9,000 readers — a much larger number than most other law journals can claim. And I’m also pleased to say that Thomas Cooley Law School has generously agreed to sponsor the printing and mailing of this volume and the next two as well.

— Joseph Kimble