Inaugural Scribes Fellows Program (2023–2024)

In March 2023, Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers plans to launch its own Canvas site to provide outstanding content about legal writing to its members, law-review editors, and other interested individuals. To accelerate content development and showcase talent from various parts of the legal profession, the Scribes Board has created the Scribes Fellows Program to attract attorneys, judges, academics, and librarians willing to produce original, engaging content related to legal writing.

For the inaugural year, which will run from June 2023 through May 2024, Scribes will select up to five Scribes Fellows. Each Fellow—who must be an individual member of Scribes or work for an institution that is a member of Scribes—will be paid either a (1) $1,000 stipend plus a three-year 50/50 profit-sharing arrangement for materials that Scribes elects to post on its site as a fee-based course or (2) a $2,500 stipend, at the Fellow's choice. Each Fellow will enter into a written development agreement with Scribes. If you are not certain whether you work for an institutional member of Scribes, please email scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com.

Each Scribes Fellow will be expected to prepare materials within and for use on the Scribes Canvas site. We are interested in various topics and formats, including high-quality interviews and programs for which lawyers and judges can earn CLE credit and on-demand courses with quizzes or other self-assessments that would interest attorneys, judges, law students, or paralegals. A list of pre-identified topics appears below, but we welcome and encourage proposals on other topics. Although we understand that the final products will vary, we anticipate that each Scribes Fellow will produce materials that would take a user at least five hours to complete. The final product might be a single course or a series of courses or programs. For example, an applicant might propose to create two 90-minute CLE programs plus an asynchronous on-demand course that should take most users two hours to complete.

An expert advisory panel appointed by the Scribes President will review materials that the Scribes Fellows produce. At least one midpoint review per deliverable will occur at an agreed-upon time, and another review will occur near the end of the year. Material created as part of this fellowship will be considered a work-for-hire, and Scribes will own the copyright. Scribes retains the discretion to, among other things, offer the final product for sale on its Canvas site or elsewhere, offer the product for free, modify or review the product, or opt not to use the

product. The Fellow will be credited (i.e., their name will appear prominently on the materials) on each course or product used. The Fellow will also be given the ability to access their own product on the Scribes Canvas page.

Specific Topics in Which Scribes Is Interested

Although Scribes will consider proposals on any topic related to legal writing, below are several topics in which we are interested in receiving proposals:

- Incorporating inclusive language into legal documents
- Training law students to extern or clerk for judges (state and federal)
- Providing feedback to newer lawyers about their writing
- On-demand writing courses for newer lawyers
- Programs and topics of interest to judges
- Programs focused on legal writing topics for paralegals
- Legal writing and ethics
- Legal writing and artificial intelligence
- Using a specific technology tool to improve legal writing
- Drafting certain documents using Plain English (e.g., pleadings, briefs, agreements, wills etc.)
- Creating accessible legal documents
- Effective storytelling
- Writing tips for practitioners in specific areas (e.g., criminal law, family law)
- Programs on cutting-edge topics about or related to legal writing

How and When to Apply

Interested individuals must apply by **Friday, March 24, 2023.** We will also consider applications from pairs, but the application should indicate whether the partners seek to produce five hours of programming for a single Fellow stipend or ten hours of programming for two Fellow stipends. Scribes will announce the fellows by May 1, 2023.

Please submit the application as a single PDF attachment sent to scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com. The subject line for the email should be "2023 Scribes Fellow Application – YOUR FULL NAME".

Please include the following elements, in the order listed below:

1. A brief transmittal letter that confirms you are a Scribes member and indicates the type of membership (e.g., individual member or employee of an institutional member). The letter should also highlight prior involvement with Scribes (if applicable). Most importantly, the letter should include a list with bookmarks to other parts of the application so reviewers can navigate your submission easily.
2. A current resume or CV that includes a current email address, telephone number, and mailing address.
3. A statement that describes your experience developing courses or other educational materials in Canvas or a similar LMS and any training you have had in developing online educational materials (e.g., certificates, courses, etc.).

4. A project proposal that describes the anticipated deliverables; the deliverables, in total, should provide at least five hours of programming or educational content. The proposal should include the following:
    o The working title or titles of each proposed program or course.
    o The anticipated audience (you may identify multiple audiences, but please note the primary intended audience) for each program or course.
    o A description of each proposed program or course, including:
        ▪ The anticipated time for a user to complete the program or course.
        ▪ The learning objectives for each program or course.
        ▪ The anticipated program elements (e.g., video lectures, quizzes, resource library, etc.), with a brief description of how the elements align with or support the learning objectives. While we prefer on-demand courses that users can complete at their own pace, we will consider time-limited, cohort-based courses that might be offered by an instructor and include student-student and student-instructor interaction.
        ▪ A relatively detailed outline of each program or course.
        ▪ Any other information that will help Scribes evaluate your proposal.
    o A proposed development timetable for each deliverable, divided into months from June 2023 through May 2024. Please suggest where the midpoint review might occur. Please ensure you can complete each project by early- to mid-April 2024, to allow time for Scribes' second review and your final edits based on that feedback.

Please address any questions about this program or the application process to scribeslegalwriters@gmail.com.

Thank you for considering this new program!