Preparing Students to be Practice-Ready Attorneys

Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop at Villanova Law School
December 4, 2012

Join the dialogue about what constitutes a "practice-ready" attorney and how law schools and legal writing programs can nurture and develop the skills students should have as they transition from law school to practice.

8:15-9:15	**Continental Breakfast & Registration**	
9:30-10:20	**Panel Discussion with Practicing Members of the Bar and Judiciary**: What is a Practice Ready Attorney & How Can Law Schools Best Prepare Student for Practice?	Moderator: **Heather Baum**, *Associate Professor of Legal Writing, Villanova Law School* Panelists: **Hon. Peggy L. Ableman,** *Judge of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware* **Meg Cranford**, *Associate Director of Alumni Career Programs at Villanova Law School* **Richard Goldberg**, *Chief of the Economic Crimes Section of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia* **Michael G. Trachtman**, *founding shareholder and the president of Powell, Trachtman, Logan, Carrle & Lombardo, P.C.*
10:30-11:20	**Practice Ready & Client Ready for the Courtroom** The presenters will talk about curricular enhancements borrowed from both clinical and advanced writing course models and will provide concrete examples of how to engage students in active self-reflection in both brief writing and oral argument.	**Ruth Anne Robbins**, *Clinical Professor of Law* and *Director of Lawyering Programs, Rutgers School of Law/Camden* **Candace Mueller Centeno**, *Professor of Legal Writing, Villanova Law School*
11:30-12:10	**Hot Topics**	**Ellie Margolis**, *Associate Professor of Law at Temple University, Beasley School of Law* **Kristin Murray,** *Associate Professor of Law at Temple University, Beasley School of Law*
12:15-1:15	**Lunch**	
1:20-2:20	**Practice Ready in the Law Firm** The presenters in this session will focus on teaching techniques and simulations that will help students polish the skills necessary for professional written and oral interactions with supervising attorneys and clients.	**Jennifer Lear**, *Visiting Professor of Legal Research & Writing at the George Washington University Law School* **Katherine Kelly**, *Assistant Clinical Professor, The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law* **Brooke Bowman**, *Professor of Legal Skills and the Moot Court Advisor, Stetson University College of Law*

2:30-3:40	**Professionalism** The panelists will provide workshop participants ideas and materials to enhance professionalism instruction, including videos to engage students in discussions of professionalism issues, tips on how to integrate "professional communication" components into existing legal writing assignments, and ideas on how to add "professionalism points" as a component of the first year grade.	**Valerie Munson**, *Professor of Legal Writing, Religion and the Law, and Jurisprudence, Southern Illinois University School of Law* **Mary Ann Robinson**, *Legal Writing, Widener University School of Law School* **Alison Kehner**, *Legal Writing Professor, Widener University School of Law School* **Brenda Tofte**, *Lecturer of Legal Writing and Advocacy Skills, Qatar University*