TO: Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

FROM: Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD)
Anne E. Mullins, President 2019-2020

DATE: November 1, 2019

RE: Report of Activities Since April 2019

Thank you for inviting ALWD to submit a written report of its activities over the last few months. ALWD values its long affiliation with the Council on behalf of the legal writing discipline and appreciates the opportunity to engage with the Council’s members and its work.

1. **ALWD Guide to Legal Citation**: The *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation* is one of ALWD’s most important contributions to legal education. In its most recent edition, the citations that result from using the *Guide* are consistent with those advanced by *The Bluebook*.

   The *Guide* is different from other citation manuals because its primary purpose is teaching and learning, and its primary audience is law students. As a result, it presents legal citation in an exceptionally clear, pedagogically sound manner. It was written and vetted by legal writing professors who have decades of experience teaching citation format. The *Guide*’s fundamental goal is to be a restatement of the rules of citation to make citation easier to teach, easier to learn, and easier to do. The *Guide* serves students, professors, practitioners, and judges. ALWD is currently in the process of hiring the new author for the next edition of the *Guide*. To learn more about the *Guide*, see [https://alwd.org/about-guide](https://alwd.org/about-guide).
2. **ALWD Biennial Conference:** ALWD hosted its national biennial conference May 29-31, 2019, in Boston. The conference theme was *A Time for Transformative Leadership*, and we were honored to have former ABA President Paulette Brown and Deans Marcilynn Burke and Carla Pratt join us for keynote presentations. The conference focused on the role of legal writing professors as leaders in legal education as well as the connection between leadership and diversity and inclusion.

As you know, many full-time legal writing faculty do not receive the same professional development benefits as faculty teaching other subjects. See Report of the ALWD/LWI 2017-2018 Survey, available at https://alwd.org/resources/survey. As a result, they cannot travel to professional conferences unless they pay out of pocket. In an effort to combat this obstacle, ALWD provided scholarships to attend the 2019 Conference to support legal writing faculty who otherwise would not be able to attend. These scholarships serve ALWD’s mission of developing and supporting legal writing professionals as teachers, scholars, and leaders as well as ALWD’s priority of increasing the diversity of the organization and the profession.

3. **Leadership Academy:** In connection with its 2019 Biennial Conference, ALWD hosted the inaugural Leadership Academy. The goal of this academy was to help participants grow as leaders. Professor Emily Gould of Columbia Law School, internationally known expert on leadership theory, led the participants and facilitators through a day of interactive sessions blending leadership skills and theory. Participants also learned from panels focused on academic leadership featuring deans, associate deans, directors, and national leaders in legal writing.

4. **Upcoming Leadership Academies:** The Leadership Academy was such a success that ALWD is planning additional academies to take place this year, including an academy alongside the 2021 Biennial Conference. This year’s academies will serve those in special leadership positions, such as directors and coordinators. They will also target legal writing professors who aspire to be part of law school administrative leadership.
5. **Survey of Law Schools:** Each year, ALWD works with the Legal Writing Institute (LWI) to conduct a survey of the law schools across the country to collect information about the legal writing curriculum and the professionals who teach legal writing across the country. All surveys are available at [http://www.alwd.org/surveys/survey-reports/](http://www.alwd.org/surveys/survey-reports/).

6. **Legal Communication and Rhetoric: JALWD.** ALWD publishes the top national peer-reviewed scholarly journal focused on advancing the study of professional legal writing and lawyering. *Legal Communication and Rhetoric* is a valuable resource across the profession, counting among its audience judges, attorneys, law students, and legal academicians. Recent volumes of the journal are available at [https://alwd.org/aboutlcr](https://alwd.org/aboutlcr).

7. **Additional Support for Legal Writing Professors:** ALWD is also engaged in the annual support for teaching and scholarship. This support is critical because many schools do not offer the professional development funding and support to legal writing professors that is typical in other areas of the legal academy. Resources include:

   - **Scholarship Grants** to provide summer funding for professors engaging in scholarship. See [https://alwd.org/resources/grants](https://alwd.org/resources/grants).

   - **Scholars’ Fora** to provide opportunities to workshop works-in-progress. See [https://alwd.org/events/otherevents](https://alwd.org/events/otherevents).

   - **Teaching Grants** to provide summer funding for professors developing teaching ideas. See [https://alwd.org/resources/grants](https://alwd.org/resources/grants).

   - **Innovative Teaching Workshops** to provide opportunities to workshop teaching ideas. See [https://alwd.org/events/otherevents](https://alwd.org/events/otherevents).

   - **Distinguished Speakers Series** to support schools in hosting visits from legal writing scholars to promote scholarly exchange of ideas and address audiences including faculty, students, and even the broader legal community. See [https://alwd.org/events/otherevents](https://alwd.org/events/otherevents).
8. New ALWD Officers and Directors: The current Board of Directors began serving on August 1, 2019. Along with me, the officers are President-Elect Katrina Lee (Ohio State); Immediate Past President Jodi Wilson (Memphis); Secretary Tamara Herrera (Arizona State); and Treasurer David Krech (West Virginia). The Board includes Mary Adkins (University of Florida); Shailini George (Suffolk); Brenda Gibson (North Carolina Central); Laura Graham (Wake Forest); Rebekah Hanley (Oregon); Tonya Kowalski (Washburn); Ellie Margolis (Temple); Susan Salmon (Arizona); and Amy Vorenberg (New Hampshire).

ALWD very much appreciates the opportunity to share its work with the Council, and we look forward to continuing to work with you.