Rutgers School of Law–Camden
856-225-6456 ◈ ruthanne@camden.rutgers.edu

Ruth Anne Robbins ◈ Clinical Professor of Law

Summary of Notable Achievements

- Co Editor-in-chief of the peer-reviewed journal, Legal Communication & Rhetoric: JALWD
- Founder and organizer of the international Applied Legal Storytelling conferences series
- Served as president of the Legal Writing Institute 2008–10
- Co-author of textbook about client-centered persuasive legal writing
- Jointly appointed in legal writing and clinical programs
- Created law school's domestic violence clinic and obtained initial funding for same
- Article appears, by invitation, on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals website
- Co-author, with a family court judge and a prosecutor, of a practitioner treatise

Rutgers University School of Law—Camden

July 1997–present

Clinical Professor of Law (jointly appointed in clinical and legal writing departments)	July 2007–present
Clinical Associate Professor of Law (in clinic department)	Sep 2004–July 2007
Clinical Staff Attorney	July 2000–Sep 2004
Legal Writing Faculty (Assistant Instructor)	July 1997–July 2000

Teaching activities include:

- Re-designing yearlong appellate advocacy course and competition to become an upper level writing and public speaking course, with significant individualized feedback and with rhetoric-based underpinnings. Teaching also includes development of original case record and bench memo, supervising student board/teaching assistants, and community outreach
- Creating and teaching upper level writing courses: *Persuasion in Legal Writing* (interdisciplinary course), *Constructing Narratives* (interdisciplinary course), *Advanced Legal Writing* (workshop course) and *Advanced Brief Writing* (first upper level writing course at law school)
- Teaching first-year legal analysis writing and research course series
- Creating and teaching Domestic Violence Clinic (2002), overseeing third year students practicing law under the New Jersey 3L Student Practice Rule including appellate work
- Supervising and training law students involved in Domestic Violence Project, a *pro bono* program in which law students provide legal information about domestic violence at county courthouses

Representative in-house service activities include:

- Curricular mapping of skills teaching throughout the lawyering and law school programs
- Director of Lawyering Program July 2011–June 2014 (rotates)
- Reviewing courses carrying writing and skills credits for compliance, reviewing related academic rules, reform, promoting collaborations among clinical, legal writing, pro bono, and advocacy offerings, creating material for website of the Rutgers School of Law–Camden lawyering programs, and other projects as assigned by the dean, vice dean and associate deans
- Serving on faculty committees including external relations (website and public relations), writing/skills curriculum, clinical hiring and promotions, and graduation awards
- Informal student advising, resume and cover letter review, serving as judicial clerkship advisor to 4–5 students annually
- Teaching: law journal orientation, career services presentations, domestic violence presentations
- Principal organizer of one-day conference at Rutgers that was jointly sponsored by Wyoming College of Law, *Persuasion in Legal Writing and Lawyering* (September 2008)

Publications

Articles

- In progress: *Art-iculating the Analysis: Visuals in Legal Reasoning*, (with Steven J. Johansen) (the article presumes that the question is not "if" to use visuals, but is instead an issue of efficacy, i.e. "when" and "how").
- In progress: *Fine-tuning Persuasion in a Right to Counsel Brief*, for symposium hosted by MICH. STATE L. REV., *Persuasion in Civil Rights Advocacy* (the article will merge a discussion of persuasive techniques used by 3L students late in their spring semester, with a discussion about the right to counsel for each party in New Jersey domestic violence restraining order cases).
- *Conserving the Canvas: Reducing the Environmental Impact of Legal Briefs by Reimagining Court Rules and Document Design Strategies*, 7 J. ALWD 193 (2010).
- *An Introduction to Applied Legal Storytelling*, 14 LEG. WRITING 3 (2008).
- *Harry Potter, Ruby Slippers and Merlin: Telling the Client's Story Using the Characters and Paradigm of the Archetypal Hero's Journey*, 29 No. 4 SEATTLE L. REV. 767 (2006) (lead article in volume).
- *The Mentoring King*, 35 RUTGERS L.J. 1259 (2004).
- *Painting with Print: Incorporating concepts of typographic and layout design into the text of legal writing documents,* 2 J. ALWD 108 (2004).
  - *Reprinted with permission*, United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, at http://www.ca7.uscourts.gov/.
- *Fiction 101: A Primer for Lawyers On How To Use Fiction Writing Techniques To Write Persuasive Facts Sections*, 32, No.2, RUTGERS L.J. 459 (2001) (with Brian J. Foley).
  - *Reprinted,* 51 No. 1 DEFENSE L.J. 149 (Spring 2002) and as *How To Use Fiction Writing Techniques to Write Persuasive Facts Sections*, Natl. Inst. Trial Advoc. LexisONE Articles (remained on site through 2006).

Books and chapters

- In final edits: *Revisiting the Traditional Foundational Legal Skills of Analysis, Research, and Communication* (with Kristen K. Tiscione and Amy Sloan), *in* BUILDING ON BEST PRACTICES & CARNEGIE'S EDUCATING LAWYERS: LEGAL EDUCATION IN A CHANGING WORLD (Maranville, Sedillo Lopez, Bliss, & Kaas, eds., forthcoming 2015).
- In final edits: *Addressing Faculty Status Issues for Maximum Institutional Effectiveness* (with Deborah Maranville and Kristin Tiscione) *in* BUILDING ON BEST PRACTICES & CARNEGIE'S EDUCATING LAWYERS: LEGAL EDUCATION IN A CHANGING WORLD (Maranville, Sedillo Lopez, Bliss, & Kaas, eds., forthcoming 2015).
- YOUR CLIENT'S STORY: PERSUASIVE LEGAL WRITING (Wolters Kluwer, 2013) (with Kenneth D. Chestek and Steven J. Johansen).
- Chapter *Harry Potter As Client in a Lawsuit*, THE LAW & HARRY POTTER (Carolina Acad. Press, Jeffrey E. Thomas & Franklin G. Snyder eds., 2010).
- NEW JERSEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE, 3D ED. (N.J. Inst. of CLE, 2009) (practitioners' treatise series) (with the Honorable Angelo DiCamillo, J.S.C., and Michael M. Abatemarco).
- NEW JERSEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE, 2D ED. (N.J. Inst. of CLE, 2005) (practitioners' treatise series) (with the Honorable Angelo DiCamillo, J.S.C., and Michael M. Abatemarco).
- NEW JERSEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE (N.J. Inst. of CLE 2002) (with the Honorable Angelo DiCamillo, J.S.C., and Michael M. Abatemarco).
- Contributing author of Robert F. Feder, VALUATION STRATEGIES IN DIVORCE 4TH EDITION (Wiley Law Pub. 1997) (Under Ruth Anne Eisenberg).

Newsletters and shorter articles

- Op-Ed: *Law School Grads should be "Client Ready"* NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL (Feb. 18, 2013).
- *The President's Column* 23 No.2 THE SECOND DRAFT, THE BULLETIN OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE, 3 (Spring 2009).
- *The President's Column* 23 No.1 THE SECOND DRAFT, THE BULLETIN OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE, 3 (Fall 2008).
- *Once Upon a Time We Had a Fantastic Storytelling Conference, Vol. 2007, Issue 2* AALS/Clinical Education Newsletter, 10 (Dec. 2007).
    - *Also published in* Fall 2007 AALS/Legal Writing, Reasoning & Research Newsletter, 4 (Dec. 2007).
- *The Next Step #1 Starting a Dialogue About Upper Level Writing* (regular column about upper level writing), 17 No.2 THE SECOND DRAFT, THE BULLETIN OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE, 13 (July 2003).
- *Creating New Learning Experiences Through Collaborations Between Law Librarians and Legal Writing Faculty,* 11 No. 3 PERSPECTIVES 110 (2003) (with Susan A. King).
- *Students Should Have a Choice*, 16 No.2 THE SECOND DRAFT, THE BULLETIN OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE, 10 (May 2002).
- *Teach to Your Audience*, 16 No.1 THE SECOND DRAFT, THE BULLETIN OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE, 8 (Dec. 2001).
- *Varying the Traditional Methods of Peer Editing,* 15 No.2 THE SECOND DRAFT, THE BULLETIN OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE, 15 (Aug. 2001).
- *Introducing "Splits in Authority" With a Low-Tech Multi-Part Exercise*, 12 No.2 THE SECOND DRAFT, THE BULLETIN OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE 4 (May 1999).
- *Take a Number*, Vol. XVI, No. 39 PENNSYLVANIA LAW JOURNAL (Oct. 1993) (with Robert F. Feder, and published under Ruth Anne Eisenberg).

Academic presentations

- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, *Art-iculating the Analysis: Legal Reasoning in Visuals* (with Steve Johansen and Victoria Chase) (June, 2014, Philadelphia, PA).
- Clinical Theory Workshop, *Art-iculating the Analysis: Legal Reasoning in Visuals* (with Steve Johansen) (March 2014, New York Law School) (invited speaker).
- 4th Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, *Picture this: the Ethos of Legal Writing Imaging* (with Steve Johansen) (July 2013, City University, London, UK).
- Capital Area Legal Writing Conference, *Iron Chefs of the Lawyering Kitchen* (with Victoria L. Chase) (March 2013, Washington College of Law, American University, Washington, D.C.).
- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, *Legal Writing's Future Role for Document Design Policy-Making* (with Matthew Butterick, Richard K. Neumann, Jr., and Derek Kiernan-Johnson) (May 2012, Palm Desert, CA).
- AALS Conference, Legal Writing, Reasoning and Research, *Extreme Makeover: Moot Court Edition* (Jan. 2012 Washington, D.C.).
- 3rd Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, *Reinventing the Second Semester* (with Professor Steve Johansen) (July 2011, University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO).
- Capital Area Legal Writing Conference, *Font Wars* (with Richard K. Neumann, Jr.) (Feb. 2011, George Washington University School of Law, Washington, D.C.).
- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, *I Read The Article…What Am I Supposed to Do With It? Teaching The Persuasion Scholarship* (panelist) (June 2010, Marco Island, FL).

- AALS/Clinical Conference, *The Science and Teaching of Legal Storytelling in the Clinic Classroom* (with Carolyn Grose, Steve Johansen and Binny Miller) (May 2010 Baltimore, MD).
- Journal of Legal Writing Symposium for the 25th Anniversary of the Legal Writing Institute, *Moving Towards Transformation: The Archetypes of Legal Writing Professors* (LWI President's remarks) (Nov. 2009, Mercer University School of Law, Macon, GA).
- 2nd Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, *This Is Your Brain on Story* (opening plenary speaker) (with Steve Johansen) (July 2009, Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland, OR).
- Mercer Univ. School of Law & Rhetoric, *Stock Stories and Word Choices: A Visual Approach* (one of three panelists responding to rhetoric scholars) (Jan. 2009, San Diego, CA).
- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, *Why & How to Incorporate Visuals: Poster Presentations, Handouts and Beyon*d (July 2008, UNIVERSITYof Indiana-Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN) (with Alison Julien).
- Defense Research Inst., Appellate Advocacy Conf., *The Beautiful Brief* (Feb. 2008, Orlando FL).
- AALS Conference, Poster Session for Teaching Methods Section, *Take A Full Length Look At Your Visual Aids: Do They Aid Long Term Memory?* (with Neena Verma) (Jan. 2008, New York, NY).
- *How Legal Rhetoric Shapes the Law* (one of three panelists speaking about the use of archetypes) (Nov. 2007, Washington College of Law/American U., Washington, D.C.).
- Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, *Opening Remarks: What Is Applied Legal Storytelling?* (July 2007, The City Law School/Grays Inn of Court, UK).
- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, *Emotion Granted: The Role of Pathos in Legal Writing Pedagogy* (June 2006, Georgia State College of Law, Atlanta, GA) (with James Levy).
- AALS Clinical Legal Education Conference, Poster Session, *Once Upon A Time: A Three-Part Collaboration to Create the New Discipline of Applied Storytelling* (April 30–May 4, 2006, New York, NY) (with Michael R. Smith and Brian J. Foley).
- Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, *Representing Harry Potter: Teaching Students to Use Heroic Archetypes to Tell Their Client's Stories* (March 2006, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ).
- Gloucester Conference: The Power of Stories, *Client Mythology: Their Stories as Heroic Journeys* (July 2005, University of Gloucester, UK) (3-person panel also included Justice Ian Callinan of Australian High Court).
- New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers, *Psyched Up teaching the Psychology of Persuasion In Upper Level Writing Courses* (June 2005, Albany Law School, Albany, NY) (with Michael R. Smith).
- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, *Visual Rhetoric: Enhancing Persuasion with Graphic Design* (July 22, 2004, Seattle University Law School, Seattle, WA).
- AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, *Incorporating Legal Writing Pedagogy Into the Clinical Curriculum* (May 2004, San Diego, CA) (with Steven Schwinn).
- Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, *Writing about Our Clients as Heroes* (March 2004, Boyd School of Law, University of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV).
- Philadelphia Region Legal Writing Conference, *"Fuzzy Thinking": Borrowing Concepts From Clinicians to Teach Students the Need to Avoid A Polarized Method of Factual and Legal Analysis* (May 2003, Rutgers School of Law–Camden, Camden, NJ).
- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, *It Is Still All About the Facts: How Researching and Understanding the Client's Situation Permits Students to Present the "R" of CRAC In a More Thorough and Sophisticated Manner* (May 29-June 1, 2002, University of Tennessee Law School, Knoxville, TN) (with Patricia A. Legge).

- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, *Creative Ways To Teach Persuasive Facts* (July 2000, Seattle University School, Seattle, WA) (with Brian J. Foley).

Workshops, CLEs and outside guest teaching

- *Legal Persuasion in Writing* (organized and co-taught a free 3-hour workshop and individualized feedback for public interest attorneys) (co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, the Legal Writing Institute, and the Rutgers Law Inst. Prof. Educ.) (June 2014, Rutgers School of Law–Camden, NJ).
- *Effective Storytelling for Judges and Juries* (April 2014, N.J. ICLE presentation with certified trial attorneys and a litigation expert).
- Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, *Point of view: Perspective and Distance* (with Steve Johansen) (University of Oregon, December 6, 2013).
- *Formatting for Lawyers* (March 2013, Rutgers IPE presentation).
- Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, *Stock Structures and Their Use in Legal Description* (Villanova University School of Law, December 5, 2012).
- *The Beauty Factor in Legal Writing* (July 2012, Wyoming CLE, Cheyenne, WY).
- Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, *Teaching Persuasion Scholarship in Upper Level Writing Courses* (Temple University School of Law, December 3, 2011).
- Lorman Education*, Tools for Persuasive Legal Writing* (April 2010, Lorman National Teleconferences)
- Guest professor, *Storytelling Theory in Statements of the Case* (Feb. 2010, Skype lecturer, Lewis & Clark Law School).
- Guest professor, *Storytelling Theory in Statements of the Case* (Jan. 2010, Skype lecturer, University of Indiana-Indianapolis School of Law).
- *A Win-Win Strategy to Give Everyone Involved in Legal Writing A Happier October, November And March* (Delaware Valley Legal Writing Consortium, Dec. 2009, Widener University School of Law – Wilmington, Wilmington, DE).
- Facilitator, Legal Writing Institute Writers Workshop (July 2009, Mt, Hood, Oregon).
- *Critiquing Student Writing* (June 2006, LWI Critiquing Workshop, Georgia State College of Law, Atlanta, GA).
- Small group leader, *Teaching Legal Analysis to First Year Law Students* (New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers, December 2004, Boston College School of Law, Boston, MA).
- *An Introduction to Critiquing Student Writing* (July 2004, LWI Critiquing Workshop, Seattle University Law School, Seattle, WA)
- *The Basics of New Jersey Domestic Violence Law* (Camden County Crisis Intervention Team Trainings, semi-annual from 2000-2008).
- *The Basics of New Jersey Domestic Violence Law* (Rutgers-Camden undergraduate sociology classes, annual 2003–2008).
- *Storytelling for Lawyers: How to Use the Most Powerful Tool of Persuasion to Win Your Cases* (Widener University School of Law CLE, April 2001, Philadelphia, PA).
- *How to Write Winning Briefs* (Nov. 1999, N.J. ICLE) (with Brian J. Foley, Ann Marie Iannone, and Deborah .A. Shore).
- *Practical Brief Writing Skills*, (March 1999, N.J. ICLE) (with Brian J. Foley, Ann Marie Iannone, and Deborah A. Shore).

Awards

- ALWD Teaching Grant, May 2009 (to develop new legal writing course about narrative/storytelling)
- Provost's Teaching Excellence Award, Rutgers University, Camden Campus, 2006 (selected by campus-wide faculty committee)
- Lawyering Professor of the Year (voted by graduating students) 2005, 2012, 2013
- Honored Professor, Women's Law Caucus, 2004, 2012
- ALWD Scholarship, March 2003 (resulted in *Painting with Print* article)

Legal Writing Institute www.lwionline.org

Board Member, 2012–16 term

- Work on initiatives, including organizing CLE for public interest attorneys
- Serve on budget sub-committee, liaison with organization and standing committees

Immediate Past President, 2010–12 term (this position is an officer of the organization)

- Work on long-term and large projects as requested by president and board of directors
- Site team for 2012 and 2014 biennial conferences
- Liaison to organization committees: Collaborations with Clinicians, Idea Bank

President, 2008–10 term

- Approximately 35 hours/month of duties
- Oversaw daily tasks and long range planning (2,100 members, approx. 25 active committees)
- Conducted monthly meetings and organized semi-annual retreats
- Worked with officers in other national organizations
- Site team for 2010 biennial conference (approx. 650 attendees)

President-elect, 2006–08 term

- Co-chaired, led program selection committee, and organized program logistics of the 2008 biennial conference (85 presentations, 175 speakers, 625 attendees)
- Served on long range planning committee selecting sites for upcoming biennial conferences

Executive Committee (Secretary), 2004–06 term

- Wrote and organized records
- Facilitated and verified results of national elections to board

Chairperson, Committee on Upper Level Writing Courses, 2002–04, and 2004–06 terms

- Created new committee charged with collecting data and course materials for and about upper level legal writing courses
- Created new column about upper level legal writing courses in The Second Draft, the bulletin of the Legal Writing Institute (published approx. 3x/year)

Co-coordinator of "Idea Bank," 2002–04 and 2004–06

- Revised system of collecting and making available the national exchange of teaching documents including simulated problems, exercises and other teaching materials
- Created first electronic database: http://www.lwionline.org/activities/ideabank.asp

Legal Communication & Rhetoric: JALWD http://www.alwd.org/lcr/

Co-Editor-in-Chief, 2010–present (elected to editorial board July 2008)

- Oversee annual article process from selection to publication
- Final edit and review page proofs for all articles
- Organize editorial board and coordinate with parent organization's board of directors
- Select articles for publication in peer-review journal

Lead Articles Editor, 2008–10

- Served as lead editor of substantive and technical edits for at least one article per annual volume

Applied Legal Storytelling conferences

Co-founder and co-organizer, 2006–present

One of five principal founders of biennial international conferences to promote dialogue about incorporating story and narrative reasoning into legal education and practice

- Conference series founders are two legal writing professors, a casebook professor and two British legal education professors
- Since 2011, conference organizers include at least one clinician
- Conferences to date have been sponsored by the Legal Writing Institute: 2007 (London, UK), 2009 (Portland, OR), 2011 (Denver, CO)(co-sponsored by the Clinical Legal Education Association), 2013 (London, UK)(co-sponsored by the Clinical Legal Education Association), and upcoming 2015 (Seattle)(co-sponsored by the Clinical Legal Education Association)
- Representative speakers have included legal writing professors, clinicians, casebook professors, deans, state attorney general, judges, practitioners
- Presentations to date have resulted in approximately 45 publications as of October 2013

Alliance for Experiential Learning in Law

- Steering committee (2012–present)
- Member of Vocabulary subcommittee (2012–present)
    - Currently developing national glossary of terms used in experiential legal education.
    - Glossary will be published in the ELON LAW REVIEW (2015).

Other and community service

Sustainable Cherry Hill Board of Directors, 2008 (inception)–2010

- Advise and participate in community group working towards environmentally-positive initiatives
- Presentation to community groups and high school students about sustainable paper usage

Girl Scouts: Troop leader (2007–10) **and volunteer** (2006–12)

- Notable accomplishments of troop: staff table at township-wide Earth Day festivals, newspaper coverage of troop's work raising awareness about the health and environmental effects of idling cars
- 2012: Organized "Judge Juliette" evening at law school with moot court students and Women's Law Caucus: law students demonstrate oral arguments to area troops, with Girl Scouts serving as appellate panel of judges

Education and other legal employment

Education

Rutgers University School of Law–Camden J. D., *magna cum laude*, May 1991

- Associate Editor, *Rutgers Law Journal*
- First recipient of endowed graduation award in family law
- Honors and merit scholarships
- Teaching assistant in legal writing program

University of Pennsylvania B. A., Biology, May 1988

- Westinghouse Science Scholar
- Dean's List
- Kappa Delta Sorority (president, secretary)
- Penn Band

Other Legal Employment

Eisenberg, Gold & Cettei, P.C. Associate, 1995–97, Haddonfield/Medford, NJ

- Conducted matrimonial, commercial, foreclosure, personal injury and bankruptcy litigation

Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis Associate, 1992–95, Philadelphia, PA

- Worked with nationally-known attorney on large and high-profile matrimonial cases

New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division Judicial clerk, (Court Term 1991–92)
Hon. Michael Patrick King, presiding judge of part

- Prepared weekly bench memoranda and drafted opinions on variety of state law issues

Bar admissions

- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Federal Districts of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania
- Third Circuit Court of Appeals

One interesting fact

- Make own jams/jellies