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Foreword

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Foreword

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On December 5, 2009, the Duquesne University School of Law hosted the “The First ‘Colonial Frontier’ Legal Writing Conference.” The theme of the conference was “Engendering Hope in the Legal Writing Classroom: Pedagogy, Curriculum, and Attitude.” The day-long conference was attended by more than sixty-five professors of legal writing and other academicians.

When the legal writing program faculty at the Duquesne University School of Law agreed to host a legal writing conference, the first one ever held in the Pittsburgh area, I proposed a theme based on the work of Professors Allison Martin of the University of Indiana School of Law—Indianapolis, and Professor Kevin Rand, Department of Psychology, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. I had served as an external reviewer of Professor Martin’s work in June 2008, and in July 2008 I had attended a presentation offered by Professors Martin and Rand at the 13th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, titled “The Future’s So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades: A Study of Hope, Optimism and Well-Being in Law School.”¹ The presentation was the first public report of an on-going study, and I knew they had drafted an article elaborating on their findings. I contacted Professors Martin and Rand, who agreed to present at our Pittsburgh conference, and with the assistance of my Duquesne colleagues and the legal writing faculty at our two neighboring law schools, the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the West Virginia University College of Law, we drafted a call for proposals, seeking presentations reacting to, and building upon, the themes in the Martin and Rand draft article.

The *Duquesne Law Review* agreed to publish the Martin and Rand article, and to devote an issue to reporting on the proceedings of the conference. At the conference, there were two plenary

1. The presentation was offered on Tuesday, July 15, 2008 (Session 2, 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.). The 2008 Legal Writing Institute Conference agenda can be found at <http://indylaw.indiana.edu/LWIconference/2008/schedule.cfm> (last visited Mar. 8, 2010).

presentations and nineteen other presentations, offered by a total of twenty-five professors.²

The conference, and this issue of the Law Review that elaborates on the presentations, resulted from the efforts of many people, all of whom I wish to thank. Financial support for the conference was provided by Aspen Publishers Legal Education, Wolters Kluwer Law & Business; Duquesne University School of Law, Dean Ken Gormley; the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Dean Mary A. Crossley; the West Virginia University College of Law, Dean Joyce E. McConnell; and the Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis, Dean Gary R. Roberts. The members of the Conference Planning Committee were: Professor Ben Bratman, University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Professor Teresa Brostoff, University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Professor Julia Glencer, Duquesne University School of Law; Professor Erin Karsman, Duquesne University School of Law; Professor David Krech, West Virginia University College of Law; Professor Jan Levine, Duquesne University School of Law; Professor Allison Martin, Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis; Professor Kevin Rand, Department of Psychology, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Professor Ann Sinsheimer, University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Professor Hollee Temple, West Virginia University College of Law; Professor Grace Wigal, West Virginia University College of Law; and Professor Tara Willke, Duquesne University School of Law.

In addition, there were many Duquesne staff persons and law students who provided conference support and prepared conference materials: Katie Chengery, Duquesne University School of Law, Class of 2011; Joshua Fuchs, Editor-in-Chief, *Duquesne University Law Review*; Lori Hagen, Information Technology Department, Duquesne University School of Law; Kathy Koehler, Administrative Assistant, Duquesne University School of Law; Milan Komljenovich, Manager of Information Technology, Duquesne University School of Law; Amy Lovell, Manager of Database Systems, Duquesne University School of Law; Heather Mediate, Administrative Assistant, Legal Writing Program, Duquesne University School of Law; Devin Misour, Duquesne University School of Law, Class of 2011; Dayna Power, Information Technology Department, Duquesne University School of Law; Manson Seto, Information

2. The conference website, including the agenda and presenter biographies, is located at <http://www.duq.edu/law/lrwp/conference-2009/index.cfm> (last visited Mar. 8, 2010).

Technology Specialist, Duquesne University School of Law; and Michael Stephan, Audio-Visual Technical Assistant, Duquesne University School of Law.

Many law students, Duquesne Legal Research and Writing Program Teaching Assistants, or Editorial Board members of the *Duquesne Law Review* assisted at the conference: Sara Andreyo, Paluma Araujo, Greg Aughenbaugh, Katie Chengery, Melissa Derby, Joshua Fuchs, Nick Godfrey, Meghan Halloran, Matthew Lambach, Bob Mancuso, Devin Misour, Cassidy Neal, Christina Pro, Emilie Ridge, Brittany Roof, Curtis Schaffner, James Thornburg, Rachel Wheeler, and Bridget Yodens.

