

WRITING SKILLS IN LEGAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

10 – 11 September 2015

NH Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West

The development of law students' writing skills has become a topic of particular interest and concern in South African legal education in recent times. Stakeholders in the legal services industry have voiced criticism regarding the quality of law graduates' writing skills. Many law faculties have also started to grapple with this issue and various interventions have been implemented. Scholarship has also started to emerge locally on this issue with a number of recent articles in local law journals addressing topics within this area. This workshop is aimed at bringing together these developments. It seeks to create a platform for an enriched discussion and exchange of ideas and perspectives on the development of writing skills in the context of legal education in South Africa.

Programme:

DAY 1: 10 SEPTEMBER 2015	
08h30 – 09h00	Registration
09h00 – 09h30	Opening address
09h30 – 10h15	Overview: Best Practices in Teaching Legal Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture and Discussion • Process vs Product Approach to Teaching Writing • Spiral Curriculum • Protocols for Effective Teaching
10h15 – 10h30	Step 1: Diagnosing Students' Strengths and Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short lecture
10h30 – 10h45	Break
10h45 – 11h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-group Exercise • De-briefing of Small-group Exercise
11h30 – 12h30	Step 2: Establishing Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture / discussion on establishing program objectives and objectives for individual classes (including a short writing exercise)
12h30 – 13h30	Lunch
13h30 – 14h00	Step 3: Sequencing the Teaching of Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short lecture and presentation of models
14h00 – 14h30	Step 4: Designing Assignments Short lecture describing types of assignments
14h30 – 15h00	Group activity – participants work in groups of two or three to design an assignment
15h00 – 15h15	Break
15h15 – 16h00	Peer review of assignments

16h00 – 16h45	Step 5: Providing feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture on goals in providing feedback and types of feedback
16h45 – 17h00	Take aways
17h00 – 19h00	Cocktail Reception

DAY 2: 11 SEPTEMBER 2015	
08h30 – 09h30	Expert Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Law Student's Toolbox: Developing an Appropriate Reading Strategy for Understanding Academic and Legal Texts Ms Helga Sykstus & Ms Marisca Coetzee
09h30 – 10h30	Expert Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Business Writing Skills for Candidate Attorneys Ms Gail Kemp – Attorney and Director of Law Society of SA - L.E.A.D - Cape Town / UCT School for Legal Practice
10h30 – 10h45	Break
10h45 – 12h30	Expert Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconceptualising the Writing Centre at the Wits School of Law: Practices and Possibilities Prof Salim Nakhjavani & Ms Jean Moore
12h30 – 13h30	Lunch
13h30 – 15h00	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration methods going forward
15h00 – 15h30	Closing address

Arrangements:

1 Venue

The workshop will be held at the NH Lord Charles Hotel. Directions to the venue are included below or can be found on the hotel's website at <http://nh-hotels.co.za/contact-us/>.

Parking is available in marked parking bays in front of the building.

2 Meals

Lunch will be served at the venue on both days of the workshop. Those with special dietary requirements must please inform Chantelle Golombick (cgolombick@sun.ac.za) and we will request the venue to make appropriate arrangements.

3 Cocktail reception

All participants are invited to join us for a cocktail reception at the venue immediately after the close of day one at 17:00. Please confirm should you be unable to attend.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Chantelle Golombick. We look forward to seeing you in Somerset West in September.

Regards,

Theo Broodryk

Faculty of Law
Stellenbosch University

Map to the NH Lord Charles Hotel

NH The Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West

CNR Main Road (M9) & Broadway Boulevard (R44), Somerset West, 7130, 5602 R44, Cape Town 7130

021 855 1040 · nh-hotels.co.za

DIRECTIONS

From N2 and Cape Town International:

- Exit Cape Town International onto N2 freeway towards Somerset West
- Turn off after +/- 25km onto exit 43, labelled R44 (Broadway Boulevard and Stellenbosch)
- Turn left at traffic lights on the bridge towards Stellenbosch
- At the next set of traffic lights will be the Waterstone Village, turn left at the intersection and first right into the hotel entrance.

MAP SHOWING NH The Lord Charles Hotel

