

Course Description for Ten Steps to Better Judicial Writing

This workshop develops ten surprisingly simple precepts that will revolutionize the way a court writes—all in the direction of clarity. Professor Garner works through jurisprudential examples to show how close reasoning works in practice, and how it can best be expressed for the intended readership.

This is a workshop for judges, judicial clerks, and staff lawyers who seek to improve the work product of courts. Professor Garner has presented it to state and federal judges in Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Washington, D.C., as well as Melbourne, Australia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In learning techniques of first-rate judicial writers, participants examine the different methods for opening judicial opinions and investigate how and why the opening paragraphs determine the style of what follows. We show the most common ways that American judges begin their opinions and suggest which ones are most effective.

The seminar also demonstrates effective editing techniques: how to choose the best words, how to sharpen and tighten sentences, and how to achieve continuity throughout. Although some of the same principles are covered in *Advanced Legal Writing & Editing* and *The Winning Brief*, this workshop focuses on the unique writing problems faced by judges.

Seminar Specifications

Seminar Length	90 minutes (total video length)
License Window	30 days from date of license purchase.
Production Date	March 4, 2016; Full review: November 30, 2020
Seminar Format	Print out course materials PDF. Begin the seminar video.

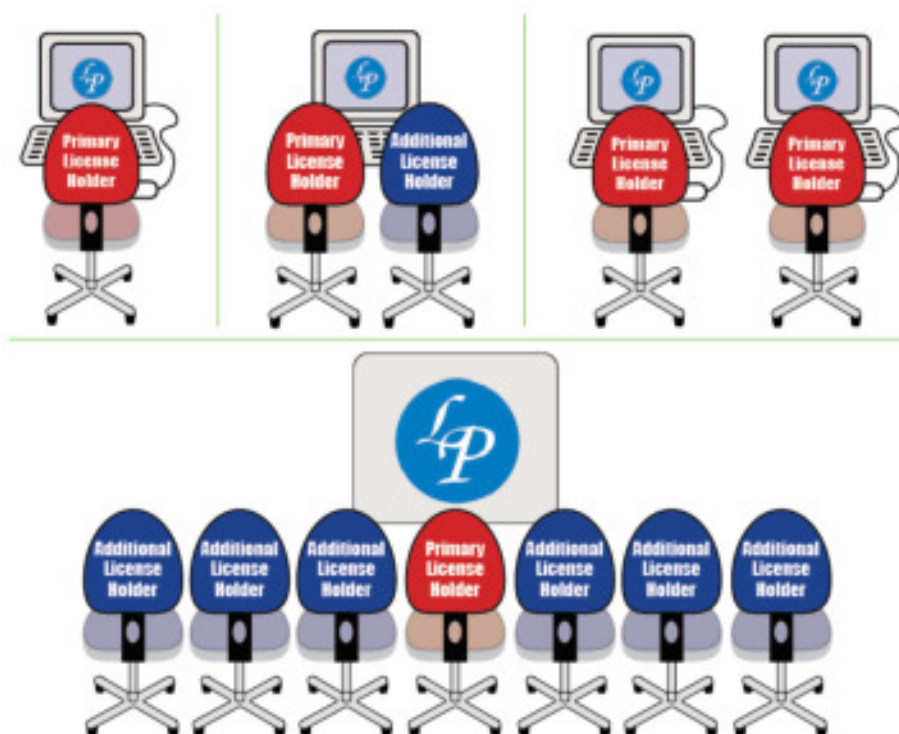
<p>Seminar Content Tree (seminar module)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Materials (PDF) • Video
<p>CLE State Approvals</p>	<p>California: Please send your California Bar number, seminar-completion date, seminar name, and code word to info@lawprose.org to receive a California CLE Certificate from LawProse.</p> <p>Texas: Please send your Texas Bar number, seminar-completion date, seminar name, and code word to info@lawprose.org. LawProse will report your CLE credit directly to the Texas Bar.</p>

Questions

Please see our [Step-by-Step guide](#) on the Self-Paced Online Seminar page for help in (1) creating an account on our e-learning site, (2) registering for a self-paced online seminar, (3) registering additional viewers, (4) accessing the course materials and seminars, or (5) accessing completion certificates.

Multiple licenses—which one do you need?

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If you're watching in a seminar in multiple locations, each location needs a primary license (that covers one person there) and then additional-viewer licenses for everyone joining to watch *with* the primary-license holder in that location.

Have questions? Ask us: info@lawprose.org.

An important note from Bryan A. Garner

I'm excited to be a part of your legal-writing education, but before you start your program, we have a few legal bits to cover:

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Best wishes,
Bryan A. Garner