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INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING INSTITUTE: CURRICULUM

JUNE 8-19, 2026

Monday, June 8

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| 8:00 – 9:00 | Registration and Continental Breakfast in Tulane Law School's Faculty Lounge: 6329 Freret Street |
| 9:00 – 10:15 | Welcoming Remarks: Tulane Law School—Room 151
Introduction and Overview of Institute: David Marcello |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Break |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | David Marcello: "Comparison of U.S. Bicameral Legislative Enactment Process with the Parliamentary System"—This lecture discusses the parliamentary system and state-federal legislative enactment procedures, how they relate to the drafting process, and what can be learned by a comparison of the two approaches. |
| 12:00 – 1:30 | Welcoming Lunch: Orientation |
| 1:30 – 2:00 | Tour of Tulane Facilities: A walking tour of Tulane's University Center and the Law School, including the Law Library and its international collections. |
| 2:00 – 2:15 | Break |
| 2:15 – 4:30 | Bus Tour of New Orleans |
| 4:30 – 6:00 | Welcoming Reception: Copper Vine |

Tuesday, June 9

- 9:00 – 10:15** David Marcello: "Getting Started: An Overview of Legislative and Administrative Drafting"—How does the drafter facing a blank page decide where to begin writing? Each draft moves through steps and stages, which will be analyzed. Similarities and differences between drafting legislation and agency regulations will be described.
- 10:15 – 10:30** Bill Drafting Exercise: Explanation and "Whirlybird"
- 10:30 – 10:45** Break
- 10:45 – 12:00** Michelle Daley: "Formulary Introduction"—This lecture explains the use of a formulary or drafting manual as a repository of acquired wisdom in standardizing good drafting practice. Participants will receive an introduction and overview of drafting manuals that serve as models to produce a similar resource for use in their own legislative offices.
- 12:00 – 1:00** Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:30** David Marcello and Michelle Daley: "Plain Language Drafting I"—Even complex ideas can be expressed in plain language. This lecture will demonstrate how the use of active voice, base verbs, present tense, and the singular number enhance clarity and readability in drafts of proposed legislation.
- 2:30 – 2:45** Break
- 2:45 – 4:00** Bessie Daschbach: "Redressing the Residue of Natural Resources Extraction"—The Center for Asset Retirement Accountability focuses on finding ways to ensure the fossil fuel industry bears the cost of cleaning up after itself. Showing up before legislative bodies is one way to address the mess. The Executive Director of CARA will discuss regulatory and legislative mechanisms that undergird enforcement of "closure" obligations by oil and gas companies in the U.S. where non-producing and low-producing oil and gas facilities continue to emit methane and inflict other environmental harms. The discussion will cover "best practices" for regulatory and legislative implementation recommended by policy analysts--CARA as well as others in the national and international spheres.

Wednesday, June 10

- 9:00 – 9:50** David Marcello and Michelle Daley: "Plain Language Drafting II"—This lecture discusses the use of short sentences, attention to the

placement of words, and choices among words of authority to achieve clarity and readability in texts.

9:50 – 10:00	Break
10:00 – 10:50	David Marcello and Michelle Daley: "Plain Language Drafting III"—Gender-neutral drafting, language quirks, and the proper placement of conditions, exceptions, and lists.
10:50 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	"Bill Drafting Exercise Workshop"—We will review and discuss participants' outlines of a proposed bill. We will then distribute a draft of proposed ethics legislation and ask participants to revise it in the next phase of the drafting exercise.
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch: Participants' Roundtable Introductions—Multipurpose Room
1:30 – 2:45	Kathleen Allen: "Administration of Governmental Ethics Laws"—What mechanisms can government use to evaluate the implementation of governmental ethics? This presentation by a former Administrator of the Louisiana Ethics Board explains how to encourage efficiency, combat corruption, and assure accountability by public officials.
2:45 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 4:00	Phil Knight: "Ambiguity"—How do drafters avoid the pitfalls of words that mean too many things at once? Ambiguity! Always a vice that requires the reader to find meaning outside of the text—never a good idea in legislation. This presentation categorizes different types of ambiguity and suggests safeguards to eliminate it from your writing.

Thursday, June 11

9:00 – 10:30	John Strylowski "Drafting Clear Regulation: Not an Oxymoron!"—This presentation demonstrates techniques uniquely well suited to drafting regulatory instruments that help readers decipher even the most complex provisions.
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	Sharonda Williams: "Drafting Open Meetings Laws"—The right of citizens to observe the deliberations of government is essential to maintenance of democratic systems. We cannot hold government accountable for what we cannot see. This presentation considers statutory and constitutional protections for open government.

12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30	Bruce Feustel: "Drafting Criminal Penalties"—Drafting penal provisions differs significantly from drafting civil laws. This presentation discusses creation of a criminal offense, appropriate punishment provisions, and the role of discretion in sentencing.
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:00	David Marcello and Michelle Daley: "Plain Language Drafting IV"—Topics include definitions, appropriations, effective dates, marginal notes, tables of content, purpose provisions, repealer and severability clauses.
7:15 – 9:30	Zydeco Night at Rock 'n' Bowl: This special outing celebrates a New Orleans institution: food and beverages, bowling, and great music. Put on your dancing (or your bowling) shoes.

Friday, June 12

9:00 – 10:15	Bruce Feustel and Michelle Daley: "Working with Members"—The speakers offer tips for drafters in building strong working relationships with members of legislative bodies, drawing upon their many years of experience as drafters, trainers, and international consultants.
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 12:00	Bill Drafting Exercise: Ethics Commission
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:15	Idella Wilson: "Creating an Agency, Board or Commission"—New legislation to create agencies, boards and commissions must address several issues: What entity should be given authority? How should members be selected or appointed and by whom? What are the responsibilities of the new entity? What enforcement mechanisms should be included? Should a sunset provision be added?
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 3:45	Machelle Lee Hall: "Drafting Environmental Laws"—The presentation will review the differing terminology and enforcement mechanisms in environmental laws that regulate air and water quality and the disposal of solid waste. The presentation will consider the roles of courts and administrative agencies and the proper balance of statutes and regulations in safeguarding against environmental depredations.

3:45 – 4:00

First Week Evaluations

Monday, June 15

9:00 – 10:15

Ariella D'Andrea: "From Policy to Practice: Drafting Coastal Fisheries Laws in Pacific Islands"—This session explores key regulatory domains in marine resources management and illustrates the challenges in domesticating complex international frameworks. It shows how well-designed legislation supports co-management in small-scale fisheries, effectively contributing to good ocean governance.

10:15 – 10:30

Break

10:30 – 12:00

"Drafting Exercise on Fisheries Co-Management"—Participants will work in pairs to develop legal provisions that enable fisheries co-management. A policy statement will provide guidance (e.g. local communities are empowered to actively manage vulnerable marine resources) and supporting documentation for this exercise.

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch

1:00 – 2:15

Pat Merloe: "Drafting Election Laws"—A timely presentation addresses international standards for election laws; drafting election laws that comport with standards in areas of voter eligibility, voter registration systems, and procedures; structure of election administration; equal access to the ballot; and ensuring ballot security.

2:15 – 2:30

Break

2:45 – 4:00

Yen Mai: "International Law and Corporate Misconduct"—This presentation considers how nations can enforce international norms against multinational corporations and addresses specifically the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Tuesday, June 16

8:00 – 9:30

Board Buses for Field Trip to Louisiana Legislature in Baton Rouge

9:30 – 10:00

Arrival in Baton Rouge and Photograph on Capitol steps

10:00 – 11:30

Briefing in Legislative Committee Meeting Room—Explains seating arrangements of legislators and staff, public's opportunity to speak, posting of notice and agenda, audiotapes, House Caucus Offices.

11:30 – 12:30	Tour House and Senate Chambers—Demonstration of electronic voting and recognition of members, presence of public in gallery, media coverage, system for lobbyists' and citizens' input, and access to legislators while in session.
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00	Legislative Auditor's Office
3:15 – 5:00	Board Buses and Return to New Orleans

Wednesday, June 17

9:00 – 10:15	Estelle Appiah: "Reflections on a Career in Legislative Drafting" in the Faculty Lounge—The 2026 ILDI Honoree looks back over her years of experience and shares insights about the satisfactions of a career in legislative drafting.
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 12:00	Lothar Determann: "Drafting Laws Governing Use and Development of Artificial Intelligence"—AI is developing and expanding rapidly. Legal regimes need to keep pace.
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:15	Kennon Wooten: "Drafting Judicial Rules"—Legislative drafters in some jurisdictions may be called upon to assist the courts in drafting judicial rules. Drafters need to know about drafting conventions that have particular relevance for judicial rules. This speaker's remarks will focus on a recent publication regarding "Drafting Clear Legal Rules."
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 4:00	Susan Hutson: "Police Accountability"—The former Independent Police Monitor for the City of New Orleans and elected Sheriff of Orleans Parish draws upon her years of experience in describing laws and regulations that subject policing practices to transparency and accountability.
4:00 – 4:15	Break
4:15 – 4:30	Board Bus to Boucherie
4:30 – 6:00	Happy Hour at the Boucherie—A "lagniappe" event added this year for the first time in celebration of the Institute's "30 + 1" years of

training graduates from more than 100 jurisdictions around the globe. Enjoy!

6:00 – 6:30

Board Bus to Hotel

Thursday, June 18

9:00 – 9:30

David Marcello: "The Landscape of Legislative Drafting: Expanding the Drafter's Role in an Authoritarian Age"—Authoritarian regimes around the world have significantly changed the political landscape for legislative drafting. How should drafters respond?

9:30 – 11:00

Gunther Handl: "Coastal State Authority over Offshore Waters: A Law of the Sea Perspective"—Prof. Handl reviews coastal states' legal authority over adjacent offshore waters by first discussing the concepts of jurisdictional zones and related coastal state powers, and the impact of climate change on maritime boundaries. He then focuses on the legal regime governing navigation, the management of natural resources, the protection of the marine environment, and issues of national security in offshore waters subject to national jurisdiction. The presentation concludes with comments on the legal protections of coastal states' legitimate interests in the ocean space beyond national jurisdiction and control.

11:00 – 11:15

Break

11:15 – 12:00

Roundtable: Q&A Session with Professor Handl

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch

1:00 – 2:15

Jessica Vapnek: "Drafting Agricultural Legislation"—This presentation offers an overview of subject matters that fall under the umbrella of "agricultural legislation" at the national level. This includes legislation addressing various agricultural inputs (such as seeds, pesticides) as well as resources (land, water, fisheries, forests) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (animal health, plant health, food safety). The presentation reviews the international context in which agriculture-related laws are drafted and touches on some of the reasons countries choose to amend or draft new legislation on agriculture.

2:15 – 2:30

Break

2:30 – 4:00

Mohamed Mattar: "Binding Rules and Guiding Rules in Drafting Human Trafficking Legislation."—A highly volatile, modern form of slavery and organized crime is difficult to control. Both international

organizations and national governments have drafted legislation to assist victims and prevent the phenomenon from spreading. This presentation considers how action plans and new laws combat human trafficking on international, national, and regional levels.

Friday, June 19

9:00 – 10:00

Claudia Cantarella: “Legal Drafting to Regulate AI”—The future of AI is fraught with risk and nearly impossible to predict. But its future is far from foreordained. Public laws crafted, debated, and enacted in the next critical years will shape the evolution of AI. Against such a backdrop of uncertainty, how can legislative drafters and members devise instruments that accommodate innovation while also dealing with deeply concerning issues of privacy, autonomy, and the power of nongovernmental platforms? We’ll have to find a way.

10:00 – 10:15

Break

10:15 – 11:45

Lou Gieszl: “Demonstration of ADR Mechanisms”—Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms enable jurisdictions to resolve conflicts quickly and economically. This presentation uses role-play to demonstrate different ADR strategies, such as negotiation, conciliation, mediation, arbitration, settlement conference, and other devices.

11:45 – 12:00

Week Two Evaluations

6:30 – 9:00

Graduation Reception: Marche