

26TH MIDWEST CLINICAL LAW TEACHERS CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 11-13, 2011
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL

True Grit: The Grit of What We Do
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The 2011 Midwest Clinical Education Conference will gather clinicians from across the Midwest and elsewhere. The conference will be held Friday through Sunday, November 11-13, 2011, at the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison, Wisconsin

The planning committee invites you to submit a proposal for a plenary presentation or concurrent session for the conference. Proposals are due by **April 15, 2011**.

The theme of the 2011 conference is “True Grit: The Grit of What We Do.” Recent legal and clinical scholarship has turned to the importance of stories in the law. Much of this scholarship focuses on narrative theory and storytelling. At the 2011 Midwest Conference, however, we would like to examine “stories” more broadly.

We believe that, unlike other parts of the legal academy, clinics are valuable precisely because they allow for a deep and nuanced understanding of the “grit” of the on-the-ground experiences of clients, clinicians, and students. What can we learn from our clients’ stories? How can we help empower clients to use their own experiences—good or bad--to approach the next stages in their lives? How can we encourage students to translate the “grit” of their experiences in the clinic into thoughtful reflection on law, lawyering, and their own roles? How can we move from individual stories to systematic study of our society and legal systems? What is the “story” of clinical legal education, and how is that story evolving?

We will begin the conference with a plenary session framing the overall conference theme. The conference will then include a mix of plenary and concurrent sessions related to the theme.

We invite proposals for both plenary and concurrent sessions. We seek a broad range of topics, including (but by no means limited to):

- how systematic examination of issues arising from clinical work can change perceptions and attitudes about our clients, the legal system, or social problems;
- gaining understanding of others through storytelling;
- narrative or ethnographic approaches to scholarship;
- the story of clinical legal education;
- transforming case outcome failures into narratives of personal or procedural

- success;
- giving clients their own voices and ownership of their life stories;
 - teaching the art of storytelling.
 - using narrative in clinical instruction;
 - storytelling techniques in litigation;
 - integrating an interdisciplinary approach into legal problem-solving and the stories we tell about our cases; and
 - capturing non-legal interests and concerns in the development of stories about clinical cases;

We strongly encourage interactive methods, but we also welcome a broad range of presentation styles, including working sessions on new ideas; demonstrations; sessions requiring role-play and feedback; and scholarly works-in-progress.

In particular, we strongly encourage newer clinicians to consider submitting proposals. We very much want to hear new voices at the conference.

We will assess proposals for the clarity of their focus, the novelty or creativity of the proposed topic, the interactivity of the proposed presentation methods, and the extent to which the proposal will contribute to the success of the overall conference. You should not feel limited in making your proposals, except that they should pertain generally to the conference theme.

Presenters for plenary sessions will receive a waiver of the \$125 registration fee, plus travel expenses. Presenters for concurrent sessions will be expected to pay for their own registration and travel expenses.

Submission guidelines are provided on the next page.

2011 Midwest Clinical Education Conference: Call for Proposals
Submission Guidelines

Please email your submission to Clinical Professor Meredith Ross at mjross1@wisc.edu, no later than **April 15, 2011**. Please include the following information:

Primary Contact (all communication about the submission will be sent to the primary contact, who will then be responsible for informing other presenters):

- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Affiliation
- Email Address

Other Presenters, for each:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Affiliation

Session Title(s): In some cases, your proposal might incorporate more than one presenter. If each presenter will speak on a particular topic, please submit a title for the proposal and a subtitle for each presenter.

Description: Please submit a brief (no longer than 3 paragraphs) description of the session.

Please let us know if you will need audio visual (a/v) equipment or a particular kind of room for your presentation.

We look forward to receiving your proposals, and to seeing you in Madison in November.

Meredith J. Ross
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For information about the University of Wisconsin Law School's clinical programs, go to <http://www.law.wisc.edu/academics/clinics/clinicaleducationskillstraining.html>.