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In Memoriam: Joseph M. Williams

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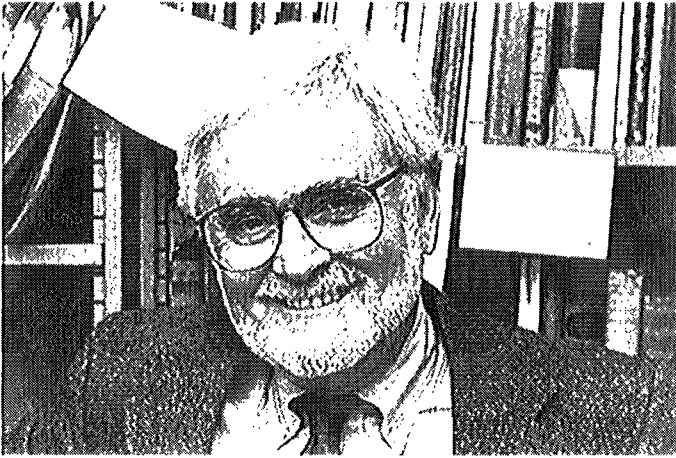
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IN MEMORIAM



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Joseph M. Williams **1933–2008**

*Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago and
Author of Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace,
among other highly influential works.*

Joseph M. Williams, Professor Emeritus of English and Linguistics at the University of Chicago, died on February 22, 2008. With his passing, the Legal Writing Institute has lost an important early friend and supporter.

I first met Joe in San Francisco in 1982, at a conference on college composition. Joe was one of the most engaging presenters I had encountered. On top of that, his book *Style* had just come out, tailored to advanced and professional writers. So when we put together the first Legal Writing Institute conference two years later, in 1984, I did not hesitate to invite Joe as one of the keynote speakers. Luckily for us, Joe did not hesitate to come. His presentation was, of course, riveting, and we owe a part of the early success of the Institute to Joe.

Joe loved those early LWI conferences and came back several times. During those years, the 1980s, Joe was also running a program at the University of Chicago on critical thinking and the de-

velopment of writing abilities in specific discourse domains. When he came to our conferences, he especially enjoyed talking with all of us, a great source for him on the “domain” of legal writing, and those conversations that we all had with him led in part to his article, *On the Maturing of Legal Writers*, in the first volume of the Institute’s Journal. Joe willingly presented us with that article for the inaugural issue, a real coup for the Journal.

I am grateful that we showed our appreciation of Joe by presenting him with the Golden Pen Award in 2006. He was thrilled to receive it—as he said at the time, flattered beyond his ability to express—and in typical fashion, he thanked us for what we had taught him. But in truth, he taught us, and we have been fortunate to count one of the giants in the world of writing instruction as our friend. For his generous support of and many contributions to legal writing, all of us, whether we knew him or not, owe him our gratitude—and our sadness at his passing.

Professor Chris Rideout
Seattle University School of Law

Introduction

**Legal Writing
The Journal of the
Legal Writing Institute**

