

CALL/ACBD (LRW-SIG)

Annual Report 2021 - 22

May 2022 – Virtual

SIG Co-Chair(s):

Hannah Steeves & Matt Renaud

Activities and initiatives that the committee has completed during this past year:

Activities for 2021/2022

The LRW-SIG hosted semi-regularly occurring drop-in meetings for LRW instructors. These were presented as “LRW Coffee Chats” and were held on:

- June 23, 2021 at 1:00 – 2:00PM ET
- August 25, 2021 at 2:00 – 3:00 ET
- November 16, 2021 at 1:00 – 2:00PM ET

The intention was to provide a space for casual discussions about:

- the structure of LRW courses across Canada,
- the pedagogy applied LRW across Canada,
- the resources being used for LRW across Canada,
- general comments on teaching a mandatory component of legal education,
- other topics of interest as brought forward by participants.

Each coffee chat had a set of discussion points that were presented, though general conversation was encouraged. Sample questions shown below:

1. Is your institution offering in-person instruction this academic year? Or is the plan to remain online for the foreseeable future?
2. For those offering online instruction: Are you taking the same approach this fall that you took in 2020-2021? Or will you be changing anything regarding how you deliver online instruction?
3. How are you planning to encourage more engagement from your students/participants in an online environment? Or in a COVID safe classroom?
4. Are you planning on using any new tools, tips, devices, assignments, etc. to deliver LRW instruction this coming academic year?

These meetings resulted in fruitful discussion and sharing of ideas. Each session saw attendance numbers of ~8-12 LRW instructors from across Canada.

Activities and initiatives that the committee hopes to tackle for the next business year:

Continued Coffee Chats

The “LRW Coffee Chats” were successful and we would like to continue hosting these in the upcoming year. It facilitated connections for instructors who felt isolated in the online environment presented by COVID-19 or were new instructors and had not been able to network in-person at events such as CALL/ACBD Annual Conference. The conversations also resulted in the sharing of ideas for in-class activities and assignments.