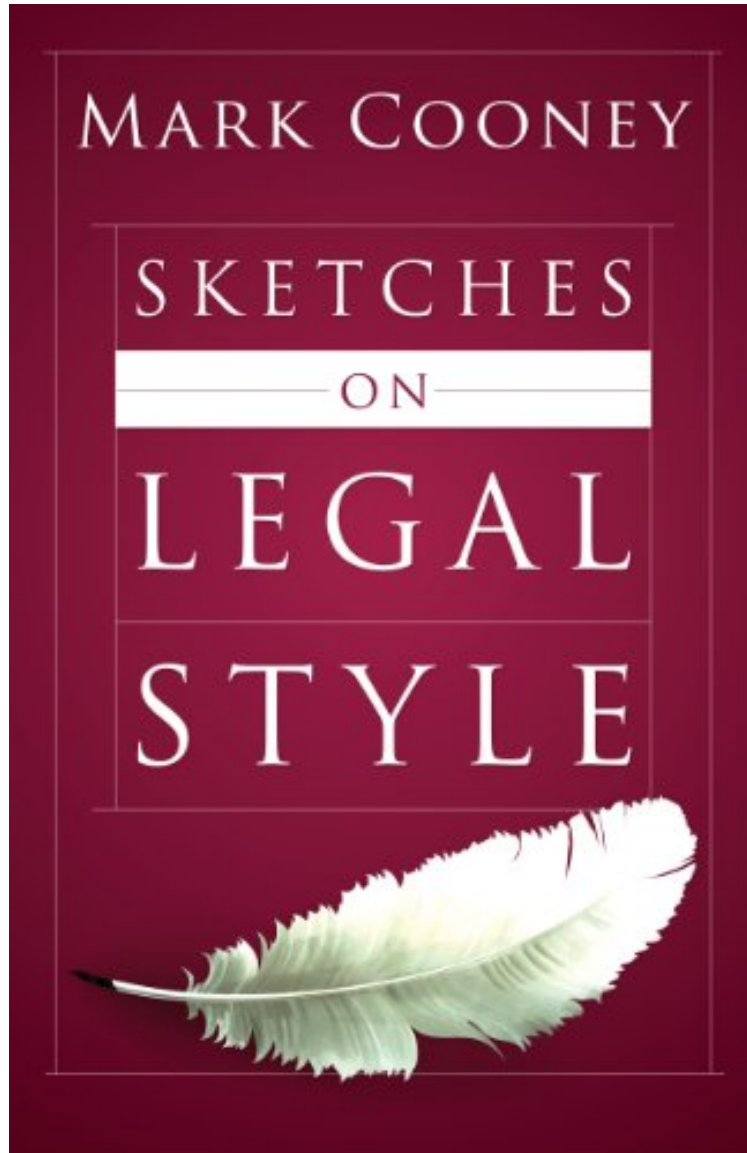


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Sketches on Legal Style

Mark Cooney

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Mark Cooney : Sketches on Legal Style before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sketches on Legal Style:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read, and you'll be a better writerBy Joseph PerottiGreat read. The practical advice is what I enjoyed most, especially becoming a "hyphen-happy lawyer" myself. I don't see a case that can be made against using plain language. It's the small things that turn a good brief into a great brief, and this book provides those tips in spades. I highly recommend dedicating a weekend to read his book.0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. Excellent, wittyBy Linda RosenthalExcellent, witty, and creative collection of essays about legal writing for the connoisseur of this genre. Anyone who takes seriously the tasks of writing persuasive legal briefs and plain-English transactional documents will enjoy this book by Professor Cooney.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerThis will become your "go to" book on legal writing.

Who says legal writing is a dull subject? This collection of lively, offbeat short pieces explores legal style like no book you've read before. But be warned: you just might learn something while you're smiling. Through a colorful cast of characters, learn how legal writers can use plain language and careful syntax to produce clearer, stronger, and more persuasive documents. But this book isn't all fun and games. It weaves in real-world examples and commentary from judges and writing experts, giving fresh insight into how readers especially judges view the rote style choices that many legal writers never question. You'll also find helpful tips and before-and-after comparisons. In short, whether a legal professional, a law student, or a writing fan of any kind, a reader will learn concrete lessons—backed by authority—on the best practices for legal writing. And although this book isn't intended to replace a traditional textbook, teachers can use these vignettes and essays to reinforce classroom lessons and make challenging concepts more accessible to students.

"This is a clever little book. It is a perfect bedtime read; each chapter is just the right length to improve your writing by a single increment between retiring to bed and sleep's arrival. But it won't put you to sleep, as most books with 'style' in the title tend to do. With its whimsical tone, it engages, amuses, and sneakily instructs. And it seems to have been written with the maxim in mind that one of my professors imparted to me when he learned I would be teaching law: 'You can only teach three things in an hour. And three are enough.' Each chapter focuses on a particular rule or technique of good writing, clearly explaining how to incorporate it into one's compositional arsenal." -- Frederick Baker Jr., Michigan Bar Journal

"I just finished reading *Sketches on Legal Style* by Mark Cooney, and I loved it. Lots of practical advice in a readable, engaging book. I recommend it." -- Wayne Schiess, Legalwriting.net Blog

"[Cooney's] new book, *Sketches on Legal Style*, is fun, easy reading. It's a collection of essays on legal writing, each delivered in a unique, humorous style. Two examples: 'A Legal-Writing Carol' in the style of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*; 'The Pleading,' a poetic lament in the style of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven*. Speaking of Dickens, this little book would be a great stocking stuffer for the law student or legal-writing geek in your life (including yourself!)." -- the (new) legal writer blog

"Prof. Cooney's mantra-like theme is that clarity equals persuasion. He also readily demonstrates the converse; that inflated writing is distracting and easily put down. This lesson in precision should strike a chord with litigators of all flavors. ...What makes Prof. Cooney's book notable is his use of story to teach these points. As trial lawyers, we know that stories are compelling. Stories are absorbed and remembered. Stories are powerful. And Prof. Cooney is a master of the craft." --Chad Engelhardt, Michigan State Bar's Negligence Law Section E-News

"[T]hese short, funny pieces aren't just for academics — they are for all lovers of good writing who just wanna have fun. ...In just 100 pages, Mark Cooney brings to life the world of words and clear sentences. He uses real-world examples (with footnotes!), coupled with witty stories and essays. *Sketches on Legal Style* makes the case for plain language, and if the medicine goes down with a laugh, so much the better." --Clarity (Journal of the international association promoting plain legal language)

"A Legal-Writing Carol," the book's first chapter, is a "sure-to-be-classic legal-writing take on Dickens' holiday favorite." --Legal Writing Prof Blog

About the AuthorMark Cooney is a Professor of Law at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, where he chairs the writing department and has taught writing courses for over ten years. Before switching from the courtroom to the classroom, he spent ten years in private practice with civil-litigation firms, defending professional-malpractice cases and other tort cases. He specialized in civil appeals, successfully briefing and arguing appeals in the United States Court of Appeals, the Michigan Supreme Court, and the Michigan Court of Appeals. He is the editor in chief of *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing* and has served as a plain-language consultant on the Michigan Bar's Standing Committee on Standard Criminal Jury Instructions.