



Excellence in Education since 1980

*Proudly Presents:*

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

# LEGAL FICTION WRITING FOR LAWYERS

October 15, 16, & 17, 2004

Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

**Taught By *New York Times* Best-Selling Authors**

**Lisa Scottoline, Esquire**, author of *Everywhere that Mary Went*, *Final Appeal*, *Running from the Law*, *Legal Tender*, *Rough Justice*, *Mistaken Identity*, *Moment of Truth*, *The Vendetta Defense*, *Courting Trouble*, *Dead Ringer*, and *Killer Smile* due to be released Summer 2004

**Stephen Horn, Esquire**, author of *In Her Defense* and *Law of Gravity*

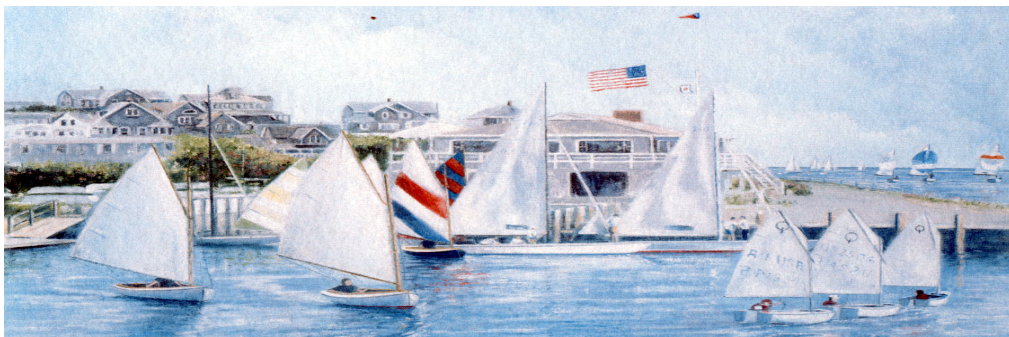


Featuring TEN Literary Agents looking for new attorney-authors

**NEW! NEW! NEW!**

Preconferences - Friday, October 15, 2004

- *Nonfiction Writing For Lawyers*
- *Getting Your First Novel Published*
- *Screenwriting For Lawyers*



**Make Your Writing Dream A Reality**

[www.seak.com](http://www.seak.com)

## **SEAK, Inc. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual LEGAL FICTION WRITING FOR LAWYERS**

### **Executive Summary**

Like all SEAK training, *Legal Fiction Writing For Lawyers*, will be hands-on, lively, and interactive. Attendees will have the opportunity to get all their questions answered. There will be numerous writing exercises and attendees will have an opportunity to get their writing reviewed and evaluated. *Legal Fiction Writing For Lawyers* has been designed to give aspiring lawyer-authors what they have never before had: hands-on and practical training on how to write legal fiction and get published.

To deliver this training, SEAK has put together a world-class faculty. This faculty features two *New York Times* best-selling lawyer-authors, Lisa Scottoline, Esquire, and Stephen Horn, Esquire, who will be teaching the course. The faculty also features literary agents looking for new lawyer-authors. Space is limited for this special seminar. It is sure to sell out. Early registration is highly recommended.

### **Topics Covered**

- Personal Success Stories: Lisa Scottoline and Stephen Horn
- Mechanics of Writing In Depth: Premises vs. Plot, Ideas, Settings and Atmosphere, Showing vs. Telling, Points of View
- Character in Depth: Naming and Describing, Back Story, History, Motivation, Relationships, Conflict, Dialogue, Minor Characters, and Evolution of Characters
- Plot in Depth: Building Scenes, Pacing, Developing, Suspense, Crisis and Resolution, Opening Hooks
- Getting Published: Agents, Writing a Synopsis and Query Letter, Acquisition and Publication Process, Manuscript Appearance, Ancillary Markets, and Book Tours
- Writing Exercises and Group Discussion

### **Seminar Benefits**

- Network with faculty, colleagues, and agents looking for new lawyer-authors
- Learn from your peers who have made the transition from practicing lawyers to international best-selling authors
- Gain practical writing experience
- Have your writing reviewed and critiqued by a faculty member
- Soup to nuts fiction writing: from naming characters to getting an agent and getting published
- Gorgeous location
- Breakfast and lunch with Lisa and Stephen each day
- This is the only course of its kind in the United States

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q. Do I need to have a manuscript to attend or benefit from this course?

A. No. All you need is a desire or interest in writing.

Q. If I have never written fiction before, is this course for me?

A. Yes. This course will help both the new and experienced writer.

Q. Will this course help me get started?

A. Attendance is the first step to getting started. Don't put it off.

Q. Will this course be work or fun?

A. It will be lively, interactive, and fascinating. You will "work" as much as you want to.

Q. Will I get a chance to meet and talk to Lisa Scottoline and Stephen Horn?

A. Yes. They will both be at the course for three days and available to talk with you.

## FACULTY

◆ **Lisa Scottoline, Esquire** is the author of best-selling legal thrillers that draw on her insider's experience as a trial lawyer at a prestigious law firm and also her judicial clerkships in the state and federal systems of justice. Scottoline won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for excellence in suspense fiction for her second thriller, **Final Appeal**, and her first novel, **Everywhere that Mary Went**, was nominated for the same high honor. Subsequent novels, **Running from the Law**, **Legal Tender**, and **Rough Justice**, were national bestsellers and received starred reviews in *Kirkus Reviews* and *Publishers Weekly*. She is also the author of three *New York Times* bestsellers **The Vendetta Defense**, **Moment of Truth**, and **Mistaken Identity** - a book that was also chosen by the Coca-Cola Company in their campaign to promote the pleasures of reading (excerpts of the novel were distributed with nine million packages of Diet Coke). Her latest novel, **Killer Smile**, is due to be released in the Summer of 2004. Scottoline graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania and cum laude from its Law School, where she won the Henry Loughlin Prize for Legal Ethics upon graduation. Scottoline's novels have been translated into over twenty-five languages. A native of Philadelphia, she lives with her family in the Philadelphia area and invites readers to visit her website: [www.scottoline.com](http://www.scottoline.com).

◆ **Stephen Horn, Esquire** was born in the Bronx, New York, and received an engineering degree from Rutgers University. He commanded an infantry company of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Vietnam. As a prosecutor in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, he tried criminal cases and participated in some of the department's most famous investigations, including the killing of four Kent State students by the Ohio National Guard and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The first piece of fiction of any kind Horn wrote, **In Her Defense**, became a *New York Times* bestseller and has been translated into eight languages. **In Her Defense** utilizes his experiences as a prosecutor and defense attorney. **Law of Gravity** was released in the Summer of 2002. Now in the private practice of law, he lives outside Washington, DC, with his wife and two children.

◆ **Steven Babitsky, Esquire** was a personal injury attorney for twenty years. He is the co-author of many works in the medical-legal arena. He is the co-author of ten books.

◆ **Beth Wechsler, MSW** brings a combination of writing and group facilitation skills to the workshop. She has had stories published in *Yankee*, *eBay Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *Consumer Reports*, and regularly in Cape Cod newspapers.

### ◆ LITERARY AGENTS

**Mel Berger** is a senior Vice President in the Literary Department of the William Morris Agency where he has been for more than thirty years. He represents Pulitzer Prize winning authors, Steve Naifeh and Gregory White Smith for POLLOCK and Oscar winning screenwriter Pamela Wallace for WITNESS.

**Regina Brooks** is the founder of Serendipity Literary Agency, a boutique agency representing a diverse base of award-winning clients in the areas of adult fiction.

**Jake Elwell** is an Agent and President of Wieser & Elwell, Inc., a New York Literary Agency. He is most interested in thrillers and mystery, but is open to anything that catches his eye.

**Irene Goodman** has been an Agent for 25 years specializing in commercial fiction, particularly all kinds of thrillers. She works with authors at all levels, from *New York Times* bestsellers to talented newcomers. Her clients include Linda Lael Miller, Debbie Macomber, and legal thriller author Rebecca Forster.

**Esmond Harmsworth** is a founding partner of the Zachary Shuster Harmsworth Literary Agency. Harmsworth represents fiction and nonfiction. For fiction, he represents literary fiction, mystery, and crime. His nonfiction list is very varied, and includes biography, true-crime, popular science, business, media, politics, history, memoir, international affairs, and psychology. He is in charge of the agency's foreign rights department and deals directly with publishers in London.

**Keith Korman** is an Agent at the Literary Agency of Raines & Raines. Some of the books the agency has been involved with and instrumental into turning them into movies include: *Deliverance*, *Die Hard*, *Cruising*, *My Dog Skip*, *How To Eat Fried Worms*, and *Forrest Gump*.

**Allison McCabe** is Senior Editor at Berkley Books, a division of Penguin Group (USA), Inc. She acquires both fiction and nonfiction.

**Peter Miller** is an Agent at PMA Literary and Film Management, Inc. He is most interested in agenting action/suspense fiction, thrillers, and legal thrillers.

**Tonianne Robino** is an associate literary Agent with the Jeff Herman Literary Agency, LLC in New York. Robino founded With Flying Colors in 1991 to provide professional writing, coaching, and editing support for new writers and established authors.

**Miriam B. Tager** is an Agent at the Nancy Love Literary Agency in New York. The agency has four authors who have been nominated for the Edgars. She is eager to cultivate new writers who are dedicated to the mystery/thriller genre. She is a member of AAR.

**Nancy Yost** is a Literary Agent at Lowenstein Associates, Inc. in New York. She previously was an Editor with Avon Books and Putnam Berkley Group. Ms. Yost is interested in commercial fiction and thrillers.

**Paige Wheeler** is an Agent with Creative Media Agency, Inc. She is most interested in commercial fiction thrillers and mysteries.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legal Fiction Writing For Lawyers

October 15, 16, & 17, 2004

Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

## Friday, October 15, 2004

7:00 - 8:30 Evening Reception (Spouses invited)  
Personal Success Stories: Lisa Scottoline and Stephen Horn  
Discussion with Authors/Seminar Leaders

## Saturday, October 16, 2004

7:30 - 8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:00 - 10:00 Mechanics of Writing in Depth:  
Premises vs. Plot, Ideas and  
Where You Get Theme, Setting  
and Atmosphere, Showing vs.  
Telling, Points of View  
Writing Exercise  
Group Discussion

10:00 - 10:15 Break & Networking Opportunity

10:15 - 12:15 Character in Depth:  
Naming and Describing Your  
Characters, Back Story, History  
of Characters, Motivation,  
Relationships, Conflict,  
Dialogue, Minor Characters,  
Evolution of Characters  
Throughout the Book

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch (Provided) with Faculty

1:30 - 2:30 Character in Depth (Continued):  
Writing Exercise  
Group Discussion

2:30 - 2:45 Break & Networking Opportunity

2:45 - 5:15 Plot in Depth:  
Building Scenes, Developing  
Suspense, Pacing, Crisis and  
Resolution, Opening Hooks  
Writing Exercise  
Group Discussion

5:15 - 6:30 Book Signing  
Lisa Scottoline and Stephen Horn

## Sunday, October 17, 2004

7:30 - 8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:00 - 10:00 Plot in Depth:  
Subplots, Handling Transitions,  
Starting and Ending Chapters,  
Suspense and Surprise, Themes,  
Flashbacks  
Writing Exercise  
Group Discussion

10:00 - 10:15 Break & Networking Opportunity

10:15 - 12:15 Getting Published:  
Agents and Editors, How to Write a  
Synopsis and Query Letter,  
Publication Process, Manuscript  
Appearances and Mechanics,  
Ancillary Markets, Book Tours  
Group Discussion

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch (Provided) with Faculty

1:30 - 3:00 Research, Editing, and Revising in  
Depth:  
How to Research Cost Effectively,  
Editing Process, When is Enough  
Revising Enough

3:00 - 3:15 Break & Networking Opportunity

3:15 - 5:00 Writer's Problems and How to  
Overcome Them in Depth: Writer's  
Block, Distractions, Fears, Leaving  
the Nest  
(spouses invited)

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### [Recommendations for October 15-17 Legal Fiction Writing Conference](#)

We recommend that each attorney wishing to attend completes brief writing assignments before coming to the course.

The writing exercises will be mailed to you as soon as you register. Registration is on a first-come basis. Conference enrollment and hotel sleeping rooms are limited. We recommend that you do not delay.

### [Hotel Rates/Reservations](#)

SEAK, Inc. has reserved a limited number of rooms at special rates (\$130.00) at the site hotel. Reservations are made by attendees directly with the site hotel by calling 1-800-225-3110 and asking for the SEAK Legal Fiction group rate.

### [Tuition/Meals/Discounts](#)

Tuition for each 1-day preconference is \$395.00 and includes continental breakfast, lunch, breaks, and seminar handbook. Tuition for the 3-day Legal Fiction Writing Conference is \$995.00 and includes the Friday night reception with Lisa and Stephen, continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday, breaks, all sessions, seminar handbook and, if you register prior to August 25, 2004, a reading and review of your submissions. There is a 20% discount for two or more attorneys registering together prior to June 15, 2004.

### [Location - Sea Crest Oceanfront Resort - Site Hotel](#)

All programs will take place at the Sea Crest Oceanfront Resort which is located on Falmouth's Old Silver Beach, one of Cape Cod's most beautiful stretches of beach. Falmouth features quaint rose-clad cottages of an earlier day, a beautiful harbor, direct ferry service to Martha's Vineyard (five miles away), several public golf courses, the world-famous Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and many fine dining establishments. The Sea Crest features many amenities to occupy leisure time.

These include: ♦ 700 feet of private, white sand beach ♦ Heated indoor pool, jacuzzi, atrium for sun and relaxation ♦ Two-level fitness center, saunas, steamroom ♦ Poolside recreational area with shuffleboard, basketball, badminton, volleyball and putting green ♦ Bicycle and watercraft rentals ♦ Outdoor tennis courts, pool, deck, and cabana bar for lounging or cocktails ♦ Shuttle van service to three 18-hole golf courses, nearby sightseeing attractions, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

### [Getting To Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts](#)

The two major airports closest to Falmouth are Logan International Airport in Boston, MA (70 miles) and T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island (65 miles). Barnstable Airport is 22 miles from the Sea Crest Oceanfront Resort, but this is a commuter airport that has smaller planes and fewer flights. T.F. Green is preferred over Logan as it is usually less congested. Rental cars, taxis and car service are available at all three airports. Bonanza Bus (1-888-751-8800, [www.bonanzabus.com](http://www.bonanzabus.com)) goes from T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, RI to Falmouth for \$50 round trip and from Boston Logan Airport to Falmouth for \$40 round trip.

### [Submissions](#)

A faculty member will read and review a representative sample of your work at no additional charge if you register before August 25, 2004. After registering, you can submit an outline-summary along with up to three chapters of your work.

### [Cancellations](#)

All cancellations received in writing prior to October 1, 2004 will receive a full refund.

### [Cover Art](#)

SEAK would like to thank renowned Falmouth, Massachusetts artist Karen Rinaldo ([www.karenrinaldogallery.com](http://www.karenrinaldogallery.com)) for permitting us to use her watercolor of Falmouth Harbor on the cover of this brochure.

**Registration is Limited. Register Today.**

# Legal Nonfiction Writing For Lawyers

How to Use Your Expertise to Publish Books and Magazine Articles

Friday, October 15, 2004

Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

*Following this course, you will be able to:*

- Define your nonfiction goals
- Pick a legal subject and turn it into a book
- Understand the nonfiction publishing business
- Choose timely topics
- Develop story ideas for non-fiction articles
- Get paid for writing non-fiction
- Turn your book idea into a successful nonfiction book
- Write a successful nonfiction proposal
- Find the right agent for you
- Write compelling nonfiction
- Understand what it takes to write nonfiction books
- Write articles for periodicals and on-line media
- Understand and use the submission process to your advantage
- Make the perfect pitch of your work
- Motivate yourself to write
- Research and write works of nonfiction
- Find time to write
- Use the correct writing style for your piece of nonfiction

## FACULTY

**Steven Babitsky, Esquire**, is the President of SEAK, Inc., a publishing and seminar company. He received his BA from the City University of New York and his JD from Boston College Law School. Attorney Babitsky has written for Matthew Bender as a contributing author of the *Social Security Practice Guide*, *Understanding the AMA Guides in Workers' Compensation Cases* (co-author), Wiley Law Publications, as well as the coauthor of eight texts published and marketed through SEAK, Inc. Attorney Babitsky was the long time Editor of *Workers' Compensation Monthly* and *Occupational Medical Digest*. Attorney Babitsky has 25 years of experience in the writing, marketing, selling, and publishing of legal nonfiction.

**Dave Freedman** has worked as a writer, editor, author, and publishing consultant since 1978. He has served on the editorial staffs of professional, business, trade, and consumer magazines and newsletters. As a freelance writer, he has written more than a thousand articles for magazines, newsletters, and newspapers (including online publications), mainly in the fields of law, personal finance, and business management. Dave has also ghost-written more than 100 articles for lawyers and financial advisers. Dave is the author of two non-fiction books, one of which was based on a \$100 million civil rights lawsuit: *Death of an American* (Continuum, New York, 1983). He is the editor of a forthcoming book (due out January 2004) on information management compliance, coauthored by a lawyer and a management consultant.

**Katharine Sands** is a literary agent with the Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency in New York City. She represents a wide range of authors in a broad range of categories including legal nonfiction, literary fiction, and dysfiction. She has represented the literary estate of Norman Wexler, Academy Award-nominated for *Saturday Night Fever*, *XTC: SongStories*, and *Under the Hula Moon* by Jocelyn Fuji (as co-agent). Katharine has been a guest speaker on writing and publishing topics for lawyers and other writers, The American Society of Journalists and Authors, New York University and the New York State Council on Arts. Her books have appeared in *Publishers Weekly* and the *New York Times* Book Review.

**Registration is Limited. Register Today.**

# Legal Nonfiction Writing For Lawyers

How to Use Your Expertise to Publish Books and Magazine Articles

Friday, October 15, 2004

Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

- 7:30 - 8:00**     **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00 - 8:15**     **Introduction**  
Why you want to write legal fiction  
A discussion of individual goals, practice-building, promotion of services, start a new career, etc.
- 8:15 - 9:00**     **Publishing Basics**  
What you need to know about the non-fiction book business and the publishing of articles
- 9:00 - 9:30**     **Article Writing**  
Developing a story idea, pitch, outline, lead, and article
- 9:30 - 10:00**   **Book Ideas**  
How to turn your idea into a successful non-fiction book. Why does the world need this book?
- 10:00 - 10:15**   **Break and Networking Opportunity**
- 10:15 - 11:00**   **How to Write a Successful Non-fiction Proposal**
- 11:00 - 12:00**   **Finding the Right Agent**  
The query letter to hook the agent and finding, securing, and working with the right agent
- 12:00 - 1:00**     **Lunch Provided With Faculty**
- 1:00 - 2:00**     **Writing Non-Fiction Books**  
Commitment, market research, understanding publishing contracts, deadlines, editing, and publication
- 2:00 - 2:30**     **Writing Articles for Periodicals and On-line Media**
- 2:30 - 3:00**     **The Submission Process**  
The things you need to do to make it work - format, revisions, and fact checking
- 3:00 - 3:15**     **Break and Networking Opportunity**
- 3:15 - 3:30**     **Practicing Pitchcraft™**  
Making the perfect pitch of your work
- 3:30 - 4:00**     **Research and Writing Works of Non-fiction**  
Conducting and organizing research, interviews, and detailed outlining of your work
- 4:00 - 4:30**     **Writing Style for Non-fiction Works**  
Style, clarity, details, lead-body-conclusion formula, and exposition formula
- 4:30 - 5:00**     **Roundtable Discussion and Concluding Remarks**

**Registration is Limited. Register Today.**

# Getting Your First Novel Published: Using Your Expertise As A Lawyer

Friday, October 15, 2004

Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Getting Your First Novel Published: Using Your Expertise As A Lawyer* is designed to show attending attorneys how to get their first novel published. There will be exercises and networking opportunities. Attendees will have an opportunity to get their query letters and pitch reviewed and evaluated. **NOTE:** Course attendees will get the most out of the course if they bring samples of their writing for the writing groups and faculty to critique.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

*Following this course, attendees will be able to:*

- Understand what fiction sells
- Create ideas for novels with commercial potential
- Understand how the book publishing business works
- Write a superior query letter
- Understand how to locate and work with the right agent
- Submit novel excerpts prior to completion of your novel
- Submit their novel directly to editors
- Evaluate the utility of unsolicited submissions
- Deciding whether to use a book doctor
- Evaluate whether to self-publish
- Know what to realistically expect in their first book contract
- Access the additional resources they need
- Find an agent
- Get their first novels published

## FACULTY

**Sheree Bykofsky** is the co-author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Getting Published* and is a New York literary agent who represents some 100 book authors in all areas of adult nonfiction and literary and commercial fiction. Her specialties include popular reference, business, health, psychology, spirituality, self-help, humor, cookbooks, biography, ethnic, women's issues, and much more. She is also the author, co-author, and editor of more than a dozen books, including the best-selling *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Publishing Magazine Articles*, *The New York Public Library Desk Reference*, three editions of the regional best-seller *The Best Places to Kiss in and Around New York City*, *The Big Book of Life's Instructions* (Harper), *Me: Five Years from Now* (Hyperion), *Popping the Question: Real-Life Stories of Marriage Proposals from the Romantic to the Bizarre* (Walker), and *The 52 Most Romantic Places in and Around New York City* (Adams). Her books have been excerpted, and she has written articles for a variety of magazines and newspapers.

Sheree speaks about all areas of publishing at colleges, writers' conferences, and seminars across the country, including the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y in New York City, and she also teaches the publishing overview course at NYU. She has also promoted her books on hundreds of radio shows and many TV shows (including *Good Day New York*, *Eyewitness News*, *News Four New York*, among others). She has a column called "Ask the Agent," and she is a member of both the Association of Authors' Representatives (AAR) and the American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA).

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# Getting Your First Novel Published: Using Your Expertise As A Lawyer

Friday, October 15, 2004

Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

- 7:30 - 8:00**      **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00 - 8:30**      **Introduction: Using your unique medical expertise and training.**
- 8:30 - 9:00**      **Studying the Book Market: What you need to know about the book publishing business.**  
Questions and Answers
- 9:00 - 9:15**      **Creating Book Ideas With Sales Potential**  
Questions and Answers
- 9:15 - 10:15**    **Writing the Superior Query Letter**  
Exercise: Reviewing Attendees' Query Letters
- 10:15 - 10:30** **Break and Networking Opportunity**
- 10:30 - 12:00** **Locating and Obtaining and Working With Your First Agent**  
Questions and Answers
- 12:00 - 1:00**    **Lunch With Faculty (Provided)**
- 1:00 - 1:30**      **What Agents Are Looking For in a New Writer/Client**  
Questions and Answers
- 1:30 - 2:00**      **Unsolicited Submissions: How To Make Them Work**  
Questions and Answers
- 2:00 - 2:45**      **Perfecting the 30-Second Pitch**  
Exercise: Reviewing Attendees' Pitches
- 2:45 - 3:00**      **Break and Networking Opportunity**
- 3:00 - 3:30**      **Book Doctors For Attorneys: Advantages and Disadvantages**  
Questions and Answers
- 3:30 - 4:00**      **Submitting Your Novel Directly to Editors**  
Questions and Answers
- 4:00 - 4:30**      **Book Contracts: What You Can Expect and Need To Know**  
Questions and Answers
- 4:30 - 5:00**      **Concluding Roundtable Discussion**

**Registration is Limited. Register Today.**

# Screenwriting For Lawyers

Friday, October 15, 2004

Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Screenwriting for Lawyers* will teach attending attorneys how to write a screenplay. Like all SEAK training, *Screenwriting For Lawyers* is lively and interactive. Attendees will have the opportunity to get all their questions answered. There will be exercises and networking opportunities. Attendees will have an opportunity to get their screenplay ideas and pitch reviewed and evaluated. **NOTE:** Course attendees will get the most out of the course if they bring samples of their writing.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**Following this course, attendees will be able to understand and utilize:**

- The techniques and disciplines of classical Hollywood screenwriting and storytelling
- The basics of storytelling
- Conflict
- Establishing a sympathetic character
- Three-act structure
- Inciting incident
- Active pursuit
- Manipulation of audience response
- Overcoming obstacles
- Creating a unified format
- The essence of good dialogue
- Structure, structure, structure
- Scene-o-gram

## FACULTY

**Richard Krevolin** is an author, playwright, screenwriter, and professor. A graduate of Yale University, Richard went on to earn a masters degree in screenwriting at UCLA's School of Cinema-Television, and a master's degree in playwriting and fiction from USC. For the past 15 years, he has been a Professor of Screenwriting at USC Cinema/TV School and the author of the books, *Screenwriting From The Soul* (St. Martins Press), *Pilot Your Life* (Prentice-Hall), and *How To Adapt Anything Into A Screenplay* (Wiley & Sons). His short fiction has been collected in the *Cup of Comfort* series and the anthology, *Not Lost In Translation*. Richard has several screenplays under option and in development. He was one of the writers of the documentary, *Fiddler on the Roof: 30 Years of Tradition*. He was a finalist for the \$500,000 Kingman Screenwriting Award, the Chesterfield Contest, the Klasky-Csupo Writing for Children Contest, and the Nicholl Fellowship Screenwriting Award. He won the USC One-Act Play Festival for his comedy, *Love is Like Velcro*. His play, *Trotsky's Garden*, was a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights' Conference. His one-man show, *Yahrzeit*, a finalist in the HBO New Writers Project, was a huge hit at the Santa Monica Playhouse, running for five sold-out months. Under a new name, *Boychik*, it opened Off-Broadway at Theater Four in New York City in 1997 and is now touring the country. He received a Valley Theatre League nomination for best director and best play for his one-man musical *RebbeSoul-O*. His play, *King Levine* opened in February 1999 at the Odyssey Theater under the direction of Joseph Bologna and after receiving rave reviews, transferred to The Tiffany. It was also nominated for an Ovation Award as Best Adaptation. In 2001, Richard had two one-person plays open in L.A., *The Lemony Fresh Scent of Diva Monsoon Man* (starring Ruth DeSosa) at the Rose Alley and *Seltzer Man* (starring David Proval of *The Sopranos*) at the Tiffany. His plays have been performed with Ed Asner, Allen Arbus, Jean Smart, Mackenzie Phillips and Richard Kline. Richard has been motivating and inspiring students through his teaching at USC since 1988.

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# Screenwriting for Lawyers

Friday, October 15, 2004

Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

- 7:30 - 8:30**      **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 - 9:30**      **Classic Aristotlean Storytelling or An Engaging Character Overcomes Tremendous Obstacles to Reach a Desirable Goal!**
- 9:30 - 11:00**    **Screenwriting 101: Everything They Teach You at USC Film School in 120 Minutes or less!**  
The Golden Rules of Screenwriting: The basics of storytelling, conflict, establishing a sympathetic character who wants something badly, three-act structure (beginning, middle, end), inciting incident, active pursuit, legitimate manipulation of audience response, overcoming obstacles, THE SILVER RULE - show don't tell, tension, exposition, genres, books vs. films, characterization, character arc, raising stakes, planting (foreshadowing) and pay-off, and involvement.  
(All illustrated with filmic examples. Time permitting.)
- 11:00 - 12:00**    **Final Draft: Creating a unified format**  
There is a standard format used by all of the Hollywood studios for screenplays. This format is called the master scene format and it is the clearest, cleanest way to tell a visual story. It prioritizes only two things - what the characters do and what they say! Feelings, thoughts, and backstory are the verboten. Show us the story and we must glean everything from what the characters say and do, with the emphasis on the visual over the verbal.
- 12:00 - 1:00**    **Lunch With Faculty (Provided)**
- 1:00 - 2:00**      **What Agents Are Looking For in a New Writer/Client Questions and Answers**
- 2:00 - 3:00**      **You Don't Say or The Essence of Good Dialogue!**  
The basics of good dialogue. This will be illustrated with excerpts from famous Hollywood films
- Why it should be used sparingly
  - What makes it credible
  - Why it should add texture to the action not just underline or repeat it
  - The essence of subtle, artful dialogue that adds to the image system instead of taking the place of the visual
- 3:00 - 5:00**      **Friday Afternoon at the Movies or Structure, Structure, Structure!**  
The key to writing is structure. So, we all will watch excerpts from a classically structured Hollywood film and analyze the heck out of it, including identifying the Act 1, 2, and 3, turning points, unifying filmic devices, climax, etc. Then we will look at the scene-o-gram and how it applies. Further, we will look at causal relationships in stories and the intricate dynamic of sequences, scenes, and beats - taking us to the essence of non-dialogical storytelling.

**Registration is Limited. Register Today.**

