

Professor Joe Kimble, USA

It is pure pleasure for me to introduce Joe Kimble to you as the first winner of PLAIN's awards. I'll tell you about Joe's extraordinary list of accomplishments first and then I'll tell you how we feel about him.

Although Joe practiced law with a firm, with the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals, the bulk of his working days—nearly 25 years now—have been as a Professor of Law, Chair of the Research and Writing Department, and a teacher of legal writing, research and legal drafting. And what has distinguished that career has been his early and passionate commitment to plain legal language.

Here is a shortened list of Joe's gifts to our plain-language community:

- Editor in Chief, *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing*, 2001–present—**6 years**
Managing Editor, 1996–2000—**4 years**
- Editor, “Plain Language” column, *Michigan Bar Journal*, 1988–present—**19 years**
- Drafting Consultant to:
 - Standing Committee on Federal Practice and Procedure (responsible for restyling federal court rules), 1999–present—**8 years**
 - Committee on Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions, U.S. Sixth Circuit District Judges Association, 1987–1991—**4 years**
 - Committee on Standard Criminal Jury Instructions, State Bar of Michigan, 1988–1994—**6 years**

I believe Joe is due to start another multi-year stint on the US Federal Rules of Evidence soon as well.

- Member of various Boards and visiting scholar to Australia
- President of *Clarity* 2004 to 2006

No one has done as much for plain language and our field as has Joe Kimble!

And you won't be surprised to hear that Joe Kimble graduated cum laude in English in 1967? Not when you hear the image-evoking titles of some of his many publications: *Lifting the Fog of Legalese*, *The Straight Skinny on Better Judicial Opinions*, *How to Mangle Court Rules and Jury Instructions*, *A Crack at Federal Drafting*, *Strike Three for Legalese* . . . Joe, there seems to be a lot of noise—mangling, cracking, and batting—going on over your career. More like physical education than the law! Dear Joe, we are pleased and proud to have you as our first recipient of our award.

Join me please in persuading this lovable man to accept our PLAIN award.

