

## “EVERYONE HAS A STORY” WILL YOU SHARE YOURS?

This year’s Midwest Clinical Conference will explore three facets of clinical focus: telling our clients’ stories, using those stories to foster systemic change, and developing innovative pedagogical teaching methods that employ story telling.

Everyone has a story to tell. We want to hear your story by affording you the opportunity to record it. This project is modeled after the “StoryCorps” project initiated by NPR. You will receive an electronic copy of your recording, to use as you wish.

Your story can come from your experience as a lawyer, a clinician, a teacher, or a student. It need not be very long – only 5-10 minutes. We will have video and audio equipment available throughout the conference so that you can record your story. We will also have someone available to tell your story to during the recording, if you choose.

We encourage you to think about your story in advance of the conference- even practice telling it to a colleague, friend, or family member. We include some suggestions for telling and editing your story below.

The following topics may help you to formulate a story that you can record during the conference. They are not meant to limit you, however. Please consider recording a story about any event that has moved you:

- an important lesson that you learned in your work or a “light bulb” moment. Think about the context. Was there a particular person or event that precipitated this moment?

- a great victory or defeat

- an occasion where you forged unique partnerships or collaborations that have left a lasting impact

- a student experience with a client that had an impact on you, the student, or the client

- a specific success or horrific failure in your teaching experiences. How did that impact you? What did you learn from the experience?

- a lesson you or your student learned from a client or their community

- an experience that led to personal change or systemic change

### How to Start

1. Is there a story or experience you had that really resonated with you? That has stayed with you all these years? Why? Think about those aspects of the story that are important to you and let them frame your story.

2. There are many different kinds of stories as well as many purposes for a story. What is the significance of the story to you? Why?

### Helpful Hints

1. What is the “gem” of your story for you? Let that guide your editing.
2. In thinking about your story, consider what details bring your story to life. Is it a person, a place, a smell? Picture in your mind what you are describing. These details may be more helpful in conveying your story than abstract generalizations. They can paint a picture in the audience’s mind.
3. When you tell your story, ask “what works”? What can be edited? You might be surprised at what you can leave out. What details are critical?
4. Who is your audience? Yourself? Your students? Other lawyers? Other clinicians? You might want to think about your story as if you were telling it to someone you trust.
5. While we encourage you to try telling your story to someone else before you record it, we also encourage you not to read it when you tell it.
6. When you arrive to make your recording we will ask you to sign a release so that we can share your story. You do not have to share your story, however. You can record it for yourself only.