

Reader-Friendly Workshop

Who will be presenting?



Christopher Rideout, PhD

Seattle University

Dr. Chris Rideout specializes in how to make complex documents readable. Through his teaching at the Seattle University School of Law and workshops and seminars, he teaches others how to do the same. His presentations and activities include the following:

- Presented through Parametrix to the Washington State Department of Transportation and its consultants, has taught workshops on making EIS's readable
- Taught workshops on making complex prose readable to layers in the Washington State Office of the Attorney General; to staff of the Washington State Senate; and to many lawyers statewide in seminars conducted for the Washington State Bar Association
- In the early 1990's, he served on Washington State's Law Revision Commission, a group that worked to make state laws more readable and comprehensive for the public
- He introduced plain language drafting concepts to the Washington State Bar through his Continuing Legal Education seminars, and as a part of those seminars consulted with practitioners who were drafting EIS's

Dr. Rideout teaches advanced legal writing and drafting at the Seattle University School of Law, where he also co-administers the legal writing program, which has been ranked #1 in the country by U.S. News and World Reports.

David Mattern, AICP

Parametrix

David has 22 years of experience with NEPA/SEPA EIS projects. He has managed EIS preparation and conducted siting studies and planning policy evaluations for major public facilities. He managed Washington State's first reader-friendly EIS for the Alaskan Way Viaduct project. The document uses innovative graphic design and clear writing, resulting in an easy-to-understand and engaging EIS, which has won awards from the Society for Technical Communications, National Association of Environmental Professionals, and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). David was a member of working groups sponsored by FHWA, AASHTO, and ACEC developing guidance on legal sufficiency and alternative formats for environmental documents.

Stephanie Miller

Parametrix

Stephanie is a NEPA specialist skilled at developing approaches and materials to convey technical information to the public on highly controversial projects. Most notably, she is considered an expert in creating clear and engaging environmental documents that are understandable to the public and meet the needs of local, state, and federal decision makers. Stephanie was the lead author of the Alaskan Way Viaduct EIS. The reader-friendly document sparked a nationwide dialogue among NEPA professionals about how to improve the quality of NEPA documents. Instead of being a cumbersome document, the EIS for this 3 to 4 billion dollar project was 168 pages and it was written in plain language so people could easily read and understand it. Stephanie routinely trains environmental professionals on the fundamentals of creating engaging environmental documents that comply with NEPA regulations.

"I thoroughly enjoyed this class! Chris is enjoyable and presents tough information."

"Chris Rideout did a great job tailoring info to the participant's needs. David and Stephanie gave tips and techniques on how to successfully apply the techniques to technical documents."

