Dear Prospective Members of the Class of 2020:

We are excited to invite you to apply to join The University of Chicago Law Review. This letter describes the Law Review, the staff selection process, and staff members’ responsibilities.

The Law Review is a student-run quarterly journal of legal scholarship. We publish articles and book reviews submitted by law professors, judges, and practitioners, as well as Comments written by the Law Review’s student members. We also produce a podcast, “Briefly,” and regularly publish essays on our website. In addition to serving as a forum for legal scholarship, the Law Review is committed to providing its staff with valuable training in legal research and writing. Staff members also learn a great deal of substantive law by writing Comments and editing other authors’ scholarship.

Former members of the Law Review include prominent legal figures such as Judges Danny Boggs, Robert Bork, Frank Easterbrook, Allison Eid, Douglas Ginsburg, James Ho, Michael McConnell, Abner Mikva, Lee Rosenthal, and David Tatel; as well as Senator Amy Klobuchar, Dallin H. Oaks, and Professors Anthony Casey, Marvin Chirelstein, Ashley Deeks, Daniel Fischel, Lawrence Friedman, Mary Ann Glendon, Todd Henderson, William Hubbard, Anup Malani, Edward Morrison, Randal Picker, Jacqueline Ross, Elizabeth Samuels, Geoffrey Stone, Sonja West, and Stephen Yelderman.

Staff Selection

Transfer students may apply to join the Law Review by participating in the Writing Competition or by participating in the Topic Access program. Sign-ups for the Competition are open now and will close on May 25, 2018. Transfer students interested in competing in the Writing Competition should contact Elizabeth Kearney at emkearney@uchicago.edu to obtain the necessary materials. The Competition instructions will be sent out on Friday, June 1, 2018. The Competition itself will begin on Sunday, June 3, 2018, and conclude on Sunday, June 17, 2018. The Competition consists of three parts: an editing portion, a writing portion, and a short personal station. The editing portion is worth 40 percent and the writing portion is worth 60 percent of the total Writing Competition score. The personal statement, while mandatory for all participants, will only be considered for selection of five members. Our selection process is entirely blind. However, the number of transfer students that may qualify for membership based on Writing Competition scores will be capped at two. New staff members must be in Chicago the evening of Friday, August 10, 2018, and all day Saturday, August 11, 2018, to attend the Law Review’s summer orientation.

The Law Review also admits new staff members during their second and third years through the Topic Access program. Students participating in this program are accepted as members of the Law Review if they complete a publishable Comment. Topic Access program participants are assigned to an editor who guides them through the Comment-writing process. Students who gain membership through the Topic Access program must complete the same editorial duties described below. An unlimited number of
transfer students may qualify through the Topic Access program. Additional details about this program are available on the Law Review’s website.

Staff Responsibilities

Staff members have three main responsibilities: editing the Law Review, helping vet articles for publication, and writing a Comment. Editorial assignments are known as cite checks. Cite checks entail five to ten days of work meticulously ensuring the accuracy of each citation in a Comment, Article, or Book Review and editing for style and technical errors. Staff members also help evaluate the novelty and impact a particular Comment or Article might have, and contribute to other essential production tasks.

In addition, completion of a Comment is a requirement of journal membership. During their first year of membership, staff members write Comments with the goal of publication. A Comment Editor and a Faculty Advisor with expertise in the relevant topic area provide feedback and guidance throughout the Comment-writing process. Comments are eligible to satisfy the SRP graduation requirement.

Law Review membership is a two-year commitment for all members, regardless of whether they choose to join the Managing Board. New staff members will receive their first Law Review assignments in July 2018. During their first year of membership, each member will complete his or her Comment and several cite checks. Staff members should expect to spend an average of twenty hours per week working on the Law Review during their first year of membership, but please note that the workload for any particular week is quite variable. Staff members who do not join the Managing Board will continue to help edit the Law Review during their second year of membership, though their workload will be reduced relative to their first year.

Why All the Work Is Worth It

Law Review members have a unique chance to solve problems in the law, contribute to legal scholarship, and develop legal research, writing, and reasoning skills. Additionally, journal work is eligible for three pass/fail credits through the Law School. Most importantly, it is a fantastic opportunity to work with classmates toward a common objective: publication of a renowned journal. The Law Review is a team, and its members form meaningful connections with one another that outlast their time on the journal. We hope you will consider applying. Feel free to reach out to any member of the Managing Board with any questions about the Law Review, membership, or their staffer experience.

Sincerely,

The Volume 86 Managing Board:

Jordan Golds, Editor-in-Chief
Graham Haviland, Executive Articles Editor
Christopher Walling, Executive Online Editor
Jing Jin, Managing Editor
Sari Amiel, Articles Editor
Steven Hazel, Articles Editor
Kevin Kennedy, Articles Editor
Mitchell Levy, Articles Editor
Max Samels, Articles Editor
Sarah Welch, Articles Editor
Megan Coggeshall, Online Editor
Jeremy Rozansky, Online Editor
David Sandefer, Online Editor
Yosef Schaffel, Online Editor

Eric Petry, Executive Editor
Katherine Bruce, Executive Topics & Comments Editor
Blake Eaton, Managing Editor
Kimon Triantafyllou, Managing Editor
Parker Eudy, Comments Editor
Lee Farnsworth, Comments Editor
Lucia Goin, Comments Editor
Peter Trombly, Comments Editor
Andrew Waks, Comments Editor
Simon Wiener, Comments Editor
Barry Frett, Topic Access & Recruitment Editor
Jamie Lee, Topic Access & Recruitment Editor
Elizabeth Nielson, Book Review & Symposium Editor
Michael Zarian, Business & Communications Editor