

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW

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Dear 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 journal of legal scholarship that publishes eight issues per year. 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

Most members of the *Law Review* join by completing the Writing Competition. The Writing Competition is held over the summer and is composed of three components: a writing portion, an editing portion, and, new for 2018, a short personal statement explaining what the applicant will contribute to the journal. All applicants **must** complete all three components. Writing Competition scores are assigned based on applicants' performance on the writing portion (60 percent of the score) and editing portion (40 percent); while failure to complete the personal statement will disqualify an applicant from the Competition, it will not be assigned a numerical score.

There are three paths to *Law Review* membership via the Writing Competition. First, we will select twenty members based on first-year grades. However, eligibility to grade on to the *Law Review* is conditional on performance in the Writing Competition. The threshold performance for grading on is defined as scoring in the top sixty submissions or the top 60 percent of submissions, whichever is more generous, though we will evaluate the next seven submissions below this threshold using a more standard-based approach. Second, another twenty members will be selected based on their Writing Competition scores. Finally, out of the next twenty applicants with the highest scores, five members will be selected based on all components of the applicant's Writing Competition submission. We will select those five members by considering the twenty applicants' writing components, editing components, and personal statements to determine which five will best contribute to the journal.

Sign-ups for the Competition will be open from April 25, 2018, to May 25, 2018. 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. Our selection process for membership is entirely blind; no *Law Review* member or editor knows how any other member was selected to join the journal. 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. 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. There will be additional opportunities next month for 1Ls to speak with *Law Review* members on a more informal basis about their experiences on the journal, and you should feel free to reach out to any member of the Managing Board in the meantime.

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*
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Megan Coggeshall, *Online Editor*
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