

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW

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April 22, 2019

Dear Members of the Class of 2021:

We are excited to invite you to apply for *The University of Chicago Law Review*. This letter describes the *Law Review*, our 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 learn a great deal of substantive law by writing Comments and editing 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, Eric Miller, Neomi Rao, 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

All members of the *Law Review* join by completing the Writing Competition. The Writing Competition is held over the summer and consists of three components: a writing portion, an editing portion, and a short personal statement explaining what the applicant will contribute to the journal. All applicants **must** complete all three components. 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.

There are two 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 contingent upon performance in the Writing Competition. The threshold for grading on is defined as scoring in the top sixty submissions or the top 60 percent of submissions, whichever is more generous.

Second, another thirty members will be selected based on their Writing Competition scores. Writing competition scores are assigned based on applicants' performance on the writing portion (50 percent), editing portion (35 percent), and a 500-word personal statement (15 percent). For students who grade-on, however, the personal statement is required but will not be factored into their total score. Thus, for the purpose of determining whether those students have made a good-faith effort in the competition, their composite score will be based only on the writing portion (60 percent) and the editing portion (40 percent).

Sign-ups for the Competition will be open from April 24, 2019 to May 24, 2019. The Competition instructions will be sent out on Friday, June 7, 2019. The Competition itself will begin on Sunday, June 9, 2019, and conclude on Sunday, June 23, 2019. New staff members **must** be in Chicago the evening of Friday, August 9, 2019, and all-day Saturday, August 10, 2019, 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 seven to eight 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 2019. 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 opportunities beginning this week 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 87 Managing Board:

Emily A. Vernon, *Editor-in-Chief*
Anna M. Stapleton, *Executive Articles Editor*
Ioannis Drivas, *Executive Online Editor*
Benjamin J. Nickerson, *Managing Editor*
Patrick J. Woods, *Managing Editor*
William Admussen, *Articles Editor*
Charles F. Capps, *Articles Editor*
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