

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LEGAL FORUM  
1111 EAST 60TH STREET  
CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60637

April 30, 2018

Dear Prospective Members of the Class of 2020:

We invite you to apply to join the staff of *The University of Chicago Legal Forum*. This letter describes the *Legal Forum*, the staff selection process, and the responsibilities of staff members.

Who We Are

The *University of Chicago Legal Forum*, first published in 1986, is the Law School's second-oldest journal. Our yearly publication is based on a unique approach to legal academia: we focus on a single cutting-edge legal issue each year, presenting an authoritative and timely approach to the selected topic.

Each fall, the *Legal Forum* hosts a symposium on the selected topic and the participants contribute articles for the volume. Recent topics have included "Law and Urban Institutions Ten Years after *The Wire*," "Law and the Disruptive Workplace," "Policing the Police," "Does Election Law Serve the Electorate?," "The Civil Rights Act at 50 Years," and "Frontiers of Consumer Protection."

The 2018 Symposium will focus on "Law in the Era of #MeToo" and the articles will be published as Volume 2019. The problems of sexual discrimination, assault, and harassment in all aspects of society that have come to light through the #MeToo movement present a unique moment for scholars to examine the law's role in reinforcing gender inequality, the consequences of legal strategies in sexual harassment and assault cases, and how our legal system can best provide justice for victims. *Legal Forum* staffers can expect to edit innovative and timely scholarship, as well as write their own Comments on legal questions that lie at the intersection of this movement and employment law, constitutional law, corporate law, criminal law, family law, civil rights, and feminist legal theory, among others.

Since our founding, several eminent members of academia, the judiciary, and the bar have participated in the *Legal Forum* symposia. Prior participants and published authors include Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Judge Richard Posner, Judge Frank Easterbrook, Judge Diane Wood, Judge Abner Mikva, Judge Patricia Wald, Judge Danny Boggs, Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer, Dean Lee Bollinger, Professor Randall Kennedy, Professor Cass Sunstein, Professor Lani Guinier, Professor Richard Epstein, Professor Akhil Reed Amar, Professor David Strauss, Professor Tracey Meares, and Professor Aziz Huq.

In addition to promoting legal scholarship, the *Legal Forum* affords students the opportunity to research, write, publish, and actively participate in the annual Symposium. Staff members also learn a great deal of substantive law through their editing

responsibilities and by writing comments.

### Staff Selection

This summer you will have the opportunity to join the staff of the Legal Forum through the Writing Competition, which will begin on June 3, 2018, and conclude on June 17, 2018. Selection to the *Legal Forum* is based solely on your performance on the Writing Competition with no regard to 1L grades.

The Writing Competition consists of three components: the writing portion, the editing portion, and a short personal statement. Because the *Legal Forum* values writing ability above all else, 70 percent of a student's Writing Competition grade will be based on the writing portion, and 30 percent of the grade will be based on the editing portion. While most members will be selected based on their Writing Competition grade alone, all three components of an applicant's Writing Competition will be considered in making staff selections at the margin. Participants should allocate their time accordingly.

Consistent with other journals, the *Legal Forum's* grading and selection process is completely anonymous. Additionally, interested individuals may also join the *Legal Forum* during their second or third year at the Law School through the Topic Access program.

### Staff Responsibilities

The three main responsibilities of staff members are writing a publishable comment, editing both comments and articles, and participating in our fall Symposium. Membership on the *Legal Forum* is a yearlong commitment. Staff members will earn three credits for their time on the journal.

Staff members actively contribute to the editorial functions of the *Legal Forum*. During the Winter and Spring Quarters, staffers will be responsible for at least one editorial cite check, one publication cite check, and participation in one Edit-Fest. The substantive cite check is the first and, in many ways, most important part of the editing process. A cite check involves gathering the sources cited in an article, reading those sources for accuracy, and correcting Bluebook formatting and citations. The *Legal Forum* board strives to make the workload manageable and predictable for new staffers.

Over the course of the year, staff members also work on their comments; completion of a comment of publishable quality is a requirement of journal membership and satisfies the SRP graduation requirement. Members work under the guidance of a Comments Editor, who provides feedback at each stage of the comment process. Members are also assigned a Faculty Adviser with expertise in their selected topic area. Faculty Advisers determine if members should receive SRP credit and/or three credits for their comments.

Students who gain membership through the Topic Access program must complete the same editorial duties described above.

### Why the Work Is Worth It

The *Legal Forum* is a journal that values personal growth, development, and excellence. It is a home for the ambitious, involved student who wants to engage deeply with a field of scholarship while remaining active in other aspects of law school life. The *Legal Forum*

provides a fantastic opportunity to improve and develop your legal research and writing skills, as well as your editorial skills. Employers in law firm, clerkship, government, and public interest settings highly value the skills acquired via membership on a student journal.

Additionally, new staffers will gain a deep understanding of the complexities and intricacies of next year's Symposium topic. Beyond writing, reading, and editing the most cutting-edge scholarship on a given topic, staffers will also have the opportunity to meet and network with many of the preeminent legal scholars invited to the Symposium during dinner and breakout sessions.

Being a member on the *Legal Forum* is an exciting opportunity and a very rewarding experience. Our staffers come into their *Legal Forum* experience capable and well-rounded. They leave better prepared for success in every direction that their diverse interests lie. We hope you will consider applying. Please contact Executive Comments Editor Mariah Slocum at [mslocum@uchicago.edu](mailto:mslocum@uchicago.edu) or Editor-in-Chief Derek Tisler at [dtisler@uchicago.edu](mailto:dtisler@uchicago.edu) with any questions.

Sincerely,

The 2018–19 *Legal Forum* Board:

Derek Tisler, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Katerina Kokkas, *Managing Editor*  
Jane Chapman, *Executive Articles Editor*  
Briana Goncalves, *Symposium / Articles Editor*  
Courtney E. Albin, *Articles Editor*  
Julia Bradley, *Articles Editor*  
Eric H. Wessan, *Articles Editor*

Taylor Imperiale, *Executive Editor*  
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Angelina Moore, *Comments Editor*  
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