Dear Prospective Members of the Class of 2023:

We are excited to invite you to apply to join The University of Chicago Business Law Review. This letter describes UChiBLR, our staffer selection process, and membership responsibilities.

UChiBLR is a new student-run journal founded in 2021 and is the fourth—and most recent—opportunity for students to gain journal experience. The journal will focus primarily on business, corporations, securities, and bankruptcy law. UChiBLR’s annual issue will publish articles submitted by law professors, judges, and practitioners, as well as student Comments written by staffers.

UChiBLR is committed to providing its staffers with valuable training in legal research and writing. Staffers will also have the opportunity to learn about specific areas of substantive law through their editing responsibilities, and they will be active participants in the journal’s annual Symposium.

Staffer Selection

Transfer students have the opportunity to become a UChiBLR staffer either by participating in the Writing Competition or the Topic Access program. The Writing Competition, held over the summer, consists of three components: a writing sample, an editing portion, and a personal statement detailing the applicant’s interest in and anticipated contributions to the journal. Applicants are required to complete all three portions before the deadline in order to be eligible for staffing consideration.

Transfer students who are interested in the Writing Competition should sign up for the competition through the webform on the Transfer Students website before the sign-up deadline. The Competition instructions will be sent out on Thursday, May 27, 2021. The Competition itself will begin on Sunday, May 30, 2021, and all materials must be submitted by Monday, June 7, 2021. New staffers must be available to attend UChiBLR’s summer orientations remotely in late August. Staffers will be notified of orientation dates upon receiving offers.

Additionally, UChiBLR admits staffers during their second and third years through the Topic Access program. Additional information about the Topic Access program will be available following the conclusion of the Writing Competition.

Staffer Responsibilities

UChiBLR Staffers have three main responsibilities. First, they must complete a 10,000 word Comment that is eligible for SRP credit. Comments will be written under the guidance of a faculty advisor and with feedback and edits from the Executive Board. As part of this process, staffers will be responsible for writing two topic proposals, two topic analyses, and Comment drafts throughout their first year on UChiBLR. Second, they must complete editing and publication checks on Articles and Comments.
published in the journal’s annual edition. This process is invaluable for preparing the journal’s print edition for publication. Staffers will not only have the opportunity to edit the work of well-known legal scholars, but they will also edit each other’s work and provide vital feedback to their peers. Third and finally, they must attend the journal’s annual Symposium.

Why the Work Is Worth It

As UChiBLR staffers, students will have the unique opportunity to shape the Law School’s newest student-led publication. Because staffers will be working on the journal’s inaugural issue, they will have the chance to create a lasting impact on the Law School and broader academia. Further, staffers will be able to contribute to business law scholarship at a law school famed for its economic analysis of legal issues and will gain experience in an area of law that is vital for professional development.

Further, this experience will allow staffers to forge lifelong connections with each other and to form friendships that will extend beyond Hyde Park. Additionally, the Law School rewards journal membership with three pass/fail credits, and staffers will have the opportunity to complete a Comment for SRP credit.

We hope to see your applications either through the Writing Competition or through the Topic Access program. Transfer students in past years have had success in obtaining membership to UChicago’s student-led publications through either program described here, and UChiBLR is particularly committed to engaging transfer student interest. Indeed, we are incredibly lucky to have transfer students on our executive board to shed light on the transfer student experience with journal admission.

Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Executive Board with questions about UChiBLR, the membership progress, or staffer responsibilities.

Sincerely,
The 2021–22 Executive Board

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