April 30, 2022

Dear Prospective Members of the Class of 2024:

We are excited to invite you to apply to 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.


Staff Selection
Transfer students may apply to join the Law Review by participating in the Writing Competition or the Topic Access Program. The Writing Competition is held over the summer and consists of three components: a writing portion, a editing portion, and a short personal statement explaining what the applicant will contribute to the journal. All applicants must complete all three components. The Writing Competition is graded anonymously.

There are two paths to Law Review membership via the Writing Competition. First, 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). Second, we will select twenty members based on first-year grades. Eligibility to grade-on to the Law Review is contingent upon performance in the Writing Competition. Due to the Law School’s unique grading system, however, transfer students will not be able to grade-on.

Transfer students who are interested in the Writing Competition should contact Elizabeth Kearney at emkearney@uchicago.edu to obtain the necessary materials. The Competition instructions will be sent out after Wednesday, May 25, 2022. The Competition itself will begin on Sunday, May 29, 2022, and conclude on Monday, June 6, 2022. New staff members must be available to attend the Law Review’s summer orientations remotely.

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. In 2020–21, we welcomed three second-year staff members and two third-year staff members from the Topic Access Program. 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 2022. During their first year of membership, each member will complete their Comment and several cite checks. While journal membership is a substantial time commitment, a staffer’s workload varies based on when they are assigned cite checks, and many staffers participate in student organizations, clinics, and Moot Court. 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. Transfer students can and do succeed on the Writing Competition. Several of this year’s staffers joined the Law Review through the Writing Competition as transfer students. Even if you do not have the opportunity to participate in the Writing Competition, transfer students have also had success in Topic Access Program. Feel free to reach out to any member of the Managing Board with questions about the Law Review.

Sincerely, The Volume 90 Managing Board:

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