April 28, 2016

Dear Prospective Members of the Class of 2018:

We invite you to apply to join the staff of the Chicago Journal of International Law (CJIL). This letter describes CJIL, the responsibilities of staff members, and the membership selection process.

1. The Journal

CJIL is an interdisciplinary forum for discussion and analysis of international law and policy issues. CJIL will begin its seventeenth year of publication this fall. Although relatively young, CJIL has quickly gained attention in legal circles and is one of the world’s preeminent international law journals. Our articles are frequently interdisciplinary in focus, and our format allows us to examine legal issues in a broader cultural and political context. The Journal is committed to presenting timely and concise scholarly work. It publishes twice per year.

2. Responsibilities of Staffers

As a staffer on CJIL, your primary responsibility will be to write a Comment on an international law topic. The interdisciplinary nature of our scholarship gives staffers the freedom to pursue topics based on a wide range of individual interests. Previous topics include alternative approaches to piracy, cross-border insolvency, international copyright regimes, and cyber-terrorism. Staffers begin the Comment process in the fall and continue through winter, submitting their final draft in February or March. Each staffer will work closely with a Faculty Advisor and Comments Editor through the Comments process. Completed Comments satisfy the Law School’s Substantial Research Project (SRP) requirement and are eligible for publication in future editions of CJIL. Furthermore, Comments are eligible for three credits through the Law School.

In addition to writing a Comment, staffers review and edit articles. These editing exercises are commonly called “cite checks.” Staffers typically have two or three cite checks over the course of the year, generally lasting a week each. Additionally, staffers must attend two events, known as “Ed-Fest,” in the fall and spring to proofread articles selected for publication. CJIL’s biannual publication schedule and evenly-distributed editing responsibilities ensure that staffers have the opportunity to participate in a variety of other activities at the Law School.
3. Selection Process

CJIL looks for students with excellent research, writing, and editing skills who are willing to learn through their journal work. We invite and strongly encourage all transfer students to apply to CJIL through the summer Writing Competition, or alternatively, in their second or third year through the Topic Access program. Prior experience or knowledge of international law is not a prerequisite for membership. There is no cap on the number of transfer students CJIL will accept through either the Writing Competition or Topic Access program.

CJIL membership for incoming transfer students is entirely based on one’s performance in the Writing Competition, which will be held between June 7, 2016 and June 19, 2016. The sign-up period will run between May 3, 2016 and May 26, 2016. Transfer students interested in participating in the Writing Competition must contact Ann Perry, Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, at akperry@uchicago.edu to obtain the necessary materials. Consistent with the policies of the Writing Competition, all submissions are received and reviewed anonymously.

Due to the importance of both writing and editing skills to the continued success of the Journal, CJIL weighs the writing and editing components of the Writing Competition equally. We anticipate having approximately twenty staffers during the 2016–2017 academic year. New staff members are required to attend Journal Orientation, which will be held at the Law School on August 13, 2016.

Membership is also available through the Topic Access program, which is open to all students in their second or third year of study. Membership is contingent upon the successful completion of a publishable Comment and editing responsibilities. Additional information about the Topic Access program will be available following the conclusion of the Writing Competition.

Joining CJIL is very rewarding. It is an invaluable opportunity to participate in the law journal experience and will expose you to many aspects of international law, an increasingly salient subject in the legal community. We are confident that by joining CJIL, staff members gain valuable legal research and writing skills; learn about an exciting, evolving, and growing area of the law; and meaningfully contribute towards international legal scholarship and the publication of a highly successful journal. We encourage you to apply, and please reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

The 2016–2017 CJIL Board:

Shiva Jayaraman, Editor-in-Chief
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James Kilcup, Articles Editor
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