April 24, 2017

Dear Prospective Members of the Class of 2019:

We are excited to invite you to apply to join The University of Chicago Law Review. This letter describes the Law Review, the staff selection process, and staff members’ responsibilities.

The Law Review is a student-run quarterly journal of legal scholarship. 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. 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 also learn a great deal of substantive law by writing Comments and editing other authors’ scholarship.

Former members of the Law Review include prominent legal figures such as Judges Danny Boggs, Robert Bork, Frank Easterbrook, Douglas Ginsburg, Michael McConnell, Abner Mikva, Lee Rosenthal, and David Tatel; as well as 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

Transfer students may apply to join the Law Review by participating in the Writing Competition or by participating in the Topic Access program. Sign-ups for the Competition will be open from May 3, 2017, to May 24, 2017. Transfer students interested in competing in the Writing Competition should contact Elizabeth Kearney at emkearney@uchicago.edu to obtain the necessary materials. The Competition itself will begin on Monday, June 5, 2017, and conclude on Sunday, June 18, 2017. The Competition consists of two parts: an editing portion and a writing portion. The editing portion is worth 40 percent and the writing portion is worth 60 percent of the total Writing Competition score. Our selection process is entirely blind. However, the number of transfer students that may qualify for membership based on Writing Competition scores will be capped at two. New staff members must be in Chicago the evening of Friday, August 11, 2017, and all day Saturday, August 12, 2017, 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. An unlimited number of transfer students may qualify through the Topic Access program. 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, and entail five to ten 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 2017. During their first year of membership, each member will complete his or her Comment and at least five 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. Feel free to reach out to any member of the Managing Board with any questions about the Law Review, membership, or staff selection.

Sincerely,

The Volume 85 Managing Board:

Patrick Ward, Editor-in-Chief
Carly Gibbs, Executive Articles Editor
Grace Bridwell, Managing Editor
Patrick Fuster, Managing Editor
Sofie Brooks, Articles Editor
Robert Golan-Vilella, Articles Editor
Nicole Heise, Articles Editor
Eitan Katz, Articles Editor
Lael Weinberger, Articles Editor
Brett Wierenga, Articles Editor
Thomas Garvey, Online Articles Editor
Kathryn Running, Online Articles Editor
John McAdams, Online Development Editor

Kyle Jorstad, Executive Editor
Joel Wacks, Executive Topics & Comments Editor
Brenton Cooper, Managing Editor
John Tienken, Managing Online Editor
Linnet Davis-Sternitz, Comments Editor
Roisin Duffy-Gideon, Comments Editor
Allison Hugi, Comments Editor
Eric Maier, Comments Editor
Mila Rusafova, Comments Editor
Bianca Chamusco, Topic Access & Recruitment Editor
Matthew Deates, Topic Access & Recruitment Editor
Anagha Sundararajan, Book Review & Symposium Editor
Mark Burnside, Business & Communications Editor