Tech Talk 6: Submitting Student Papers for Publication

Melissa Fung
mfung@sandiego.edu
Getting Published!

- Writing Competitions
- Calls for Papers
- Student-Edited Journals
Is my paper ready to be published?

- Generally students will start with papers written for a law journal comment or as part of a paper-writing seminar course.

- Make sure that your paper is in its final draft form, including footnotes.

- If you have received comments on your paper, it is a good idea to incorporate them into the final draft before you begin the submission process.
Writing Competitions

- Many organizations run legal writing competitions, usually on a particular subject, e.g. environmental law, constitutional law. Writing competitions can involve cash prizes, award titles, and often publication.

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<th>Competition</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<td>Entry deadline: June, Award: $300 to $500; possible publication in the Disability Rights Reporter.</td>
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<td>Entry deadline: May, Award: Publication in the American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy &amp; the Law Resolution from the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence and honorarium.</td>
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<td>Entertainment and Sports Industry and the Recording Academy Entertainment Law Initiative (ELI) Annual GRAMMY® Foundation Entertainment Law Initiative (ELI) Writing Contest</td>
<td>Entry deadline: January, Award: $5,000 and all expense paid trip to the Grammy Awards. For additional information, visit Facebook.com and search for &quot;The Entertainment Law Initiative&quot;. If you are not a Facebook user simply send an e-mail to <a href="mailto:eli@grammy.com">eli@grammy.com</a>.</td>
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Writing Competitions: Topics

- Writing competition topics can be as broad as a general subject area or as narrow as a specific question.

- Examples:
  - Any federal or state tax-related topic
  - Address developments or trends in U.S. environmental law that have a significant constitutional or “federalism” component.
  - As the Affordable Care Act gets further implemented in 2014, discuss opportunities and challenges this law presents for constructive, innovative collaboration between the legal and medical professionals.
Writing Competitions: Publication

- Competitions usually state whether or not publication is possible.

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- If publication is not offered, or not guaranteed, you should contact the competition to see if you can submit the article simultaneously to both the competition and to law reviews.

- Always ask permission before simultaneously submitting a paper for publication!
Writing Competition Links

- American Bar Association
  http://www.americanbar.org/groups/law_students/events_competitions/wec.html

- Georgetown Law School
  http://www.law.georgetown.edu/students/writing-competitions.cfm

- Notre Dame Law School
  http://law.nd.edu/student-life/writing-competitions/

- George Washington University Law School
  http://www.law.gwu.edu/Academics/EL/Writing%20Center/Pages/Competitions.aspx
Call for Papers

- A call for papers is an announcement by editors of a journal or organizers of a conference that they are seeking papers on a given theme.

- Announcements may require a full paper OR a draft proposal.
Call for Papers Links

- The Legal Scholarship Blog
  http://www.legalscholarshipblog.com/category/type/calls-for-papers/

- The Faculty Lounge: Calls for Papers
  http://www.thefacultylounge.org/calls-for-papers/

- University of Georgia Law: Calling All Papers!
  http://www.law.uga.edu/calling-all-papers/

- Lawctopus: Calls for Papers
  http://www.lawctopus.com/category/grab-this/call-for-papers-grab-this/
Student-Edited Journals

- These journals are edited by students and advised by members of the law school staff or faculty.

- Law schools typically have a general-interest or "flagship" law review (e.g., San Diego Law Review) as well as one or more specialized journals, focusing on one or more topics (e.g., the Journal on Climate and Energy Law).
Which journal(s) should I submit to?

- You should try and publish in the best journal you can for your topic.
  - Consider the journal’s reputation (flagship journals v. specialized journals)
  - Think about the audience you want to reach (e.g., practitioners, legal scholars, scholars from other fields)?

- Measuring journal quality
  - See the University of Washington’s page for more information on journal ranking tools [https://lib.law.washington.edu/content/guides/lawrevs-where](https://lib.law.washington.edu/content/guides/lawrevs-where)
  - Look at recent issues of the journal you are considering, do they seem well edited and useful?
A note about timing

- Peak submission times for student edited journals are February-March and August-October.

- Authors who submit after these peaks may still place their papers, but it might be harder because some journals will fill their issues early.
How to Submit your Paper

- **ExpressO (Berkeley Electronic Press)**
  Nearly 600 journals accept submissions via Berkeley Electronic Press’s ExpressO service. USD does not have an institutional account. For individual users, the fee is $2.20 per journal.

- **Scholastica**
  [https://scholasticahq.com/](https://scholasticahq.com/)
  Scholastica, founded in March 2012, now has over 100 law reviews. USD does not have an institutional account. Scholastica charges $5 to submit to law journals.
Submission complete! Now what?

The waiting game...
- In the first few weeks after submission you will get a number of acknowledgements of receipt.
- Expect the entire process to take four to twelve weeks.

Accepting an offer
- If you are fortunate to receive several offers at once, you can ask for a few days to make your choice.
- Once you accept an offer, you should never renege. It is also considered courteous to inform the other journals once you have placed your article so as to save them unnecessary work.
We’re here to help

Reference librarians are here every day and during weeknights (except during intersession).

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http://www.sandiego.edu/law/lrc/general/hours.php

- Reference Desk Phone: 619-260-4612
- Ref. Desk E-mail: lrcrefer@sandiego.edu