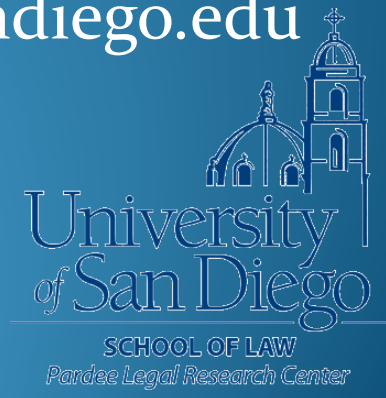


# Submitting Student Papers for Publication

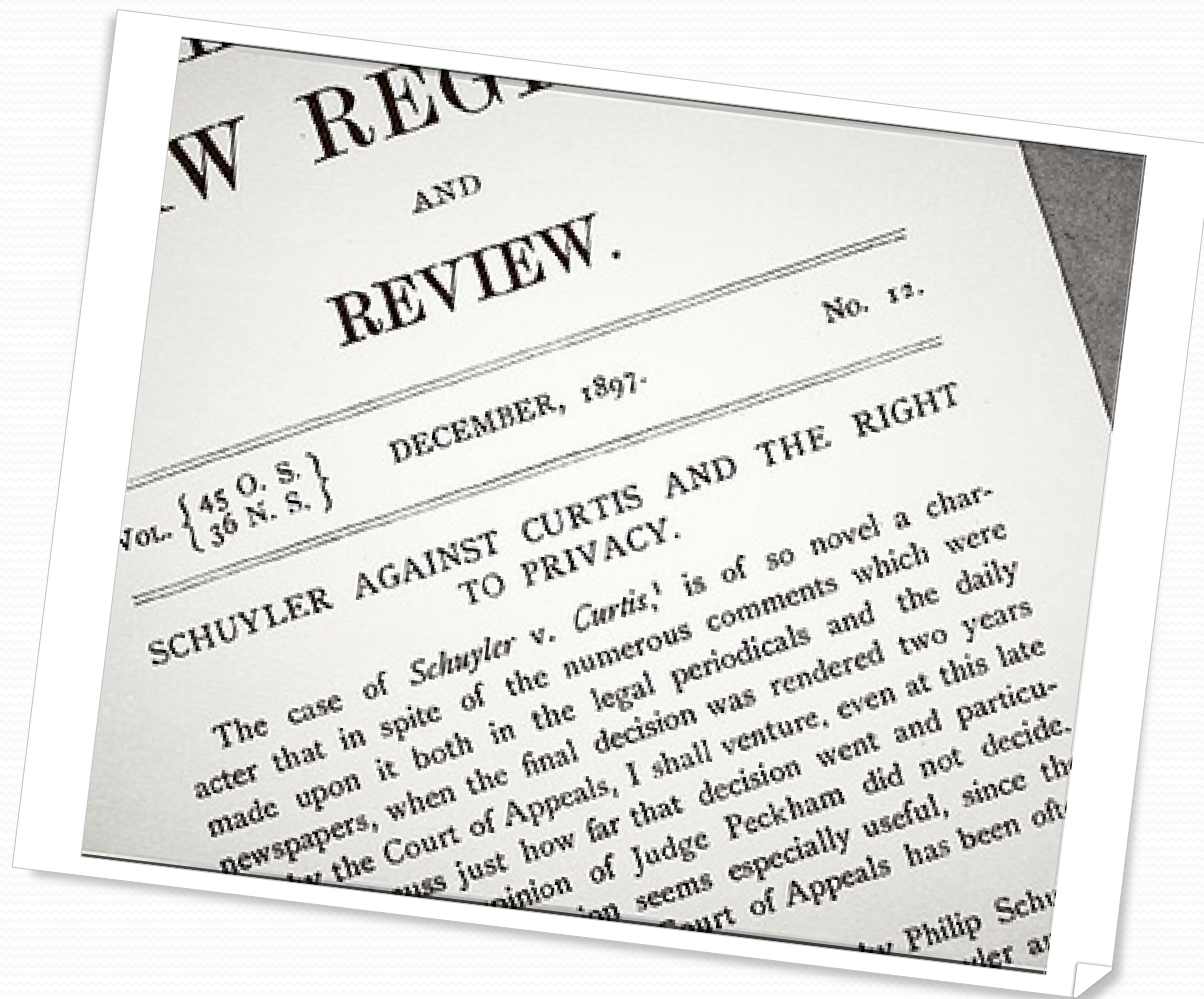
Melissa Abernathy

[mabernathy@sandiego.edu](mailto:mabernathy@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.

## **Disability Rights Adam A. Milani Writing Competition**

**Entry deadline: June**

Award: \$300 to \$500; possible publication in the *Disability Rights Reporter*. [Tell me more](#)

## **Domestic Violence Annual Law Student Writing Competition**

**Entry deadline: May**

Award: Publication in the *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law Resolution* from the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence and honorarium. [Tell me more](#)

## **Entertainment and Sports Industry and the Recording Academy Entertainment Law Initiative (ELI) Annual GRAMMY® Foundation Entertainment Law Initiative (ELI) Writing Contest**

**Entry deadline: January**

Award: \$5,000 and all expense paid trip to the Grammy Awards. For additional information, visit [Facebook.com](#) and search for "The Entertainment Law Initiative". If you are not a Facebook user simply send an e-mail to [eli@grammy.com](mailto:eli@grammy.com).

# 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 legal and medical professionals.

# Writing Competitions: Publication

- Competitions usually state whether or not publication is possible.

**Disability Rights Adam A. Milani Writing Competition**

**Entry deadline: June**

Award: \$300 to \$500; possible publication in the *Disability Rights Reporter*. [Tell me more](#)

**Domestic Violence Annual Law Student Writing Competition**

**Entry deadline: May**

Award: Publication in the *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law Resolution* from the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence and honorarium. [Tell me more](#)

- 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](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/>
- University of San Diego  
<http://www.sandiego.edu/law/current/writing-competitions.php>

# 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.

## Patent Pledges at American University

CALL FOR PAPERS: Patent Pledges

Abstract Submission Deadline: January 20, 2015

Final Paper Deadline: June 1, 2015

Patent Pledges Symposium: June 15, 2015

Patent holders are increasingly making voluntary, public commitments to limit the enforcement and other exploitation of their patents. The best-known form of patent pledge is the so-called FRAND commitment, in which a patent holder commits to license patents to manufacturers of standardized products on terms that are "fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory." But patent pledges have been appearing in fields and environments well beyond technical standard-setting, including open source software, green technology and the biosciences. Pledges include FRAND commitments, as well as commitments not to assert patents against specified technologies or entities, and not to transfer patents to non-practicing entities.

- 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.thefacultyounge.org/calls-for-papers/>
- University of Georgia Law: Calling All Papers!  
<http://www.law.uga.edu/calling-all-papers/>
- Lawctopus: Calls for Papers  
<https://www.lawctopus.com/tag/call-for-papers/>

# 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**
  - Law Journals Submissions and Rankings –Washington and Lee Law Library <http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/>
  - See the University of Washington's page for more information on journal ranking tools  
[http://guides.lib.uw.edu/law/writinglawreview/measuring\\_quality](http://guides.lib.uw.edu/law/writinglawreview/measuring_quality)
  - 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)**

<http://law.bepress.com/expresso/>

Nearly 600 journals accept submissions via Berkeley Electronic Press's ExpressO service. USD does not have an institutional account for students. For individual users, the fee is \$3.10 per journal.

- **Scholastica**

<https://scholasticahq.com/>

Scholastica, founded in March 2012, now has over 100 law reviews. USD does not have an institutional account. Scholastica charges \$6.50 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).

Check our website for current hours:

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

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