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**T**he *Harvard Law Review* is a student-run organization whose primary purpose is to publish a journal of legal scholarship. The *Review* comes out monthly from November through June and has roughly 2,500 pages per volume. The organization is formally independent of the Harvard Law School. Student editors make all editorial and organizational decisions and, together with a professional business staff of three, carry out day-to-day operations.

Aside from serving as an important academic forum for legal scholarship, the *Review* has two other goals. First, the journal is designed to be an effective research tool for practicing lawyers and students of the law. Second, it provides opportuni-

ties for *Review* members to develop their own editing and writing skills. Accordingly, each issue contains pieces by student editors as well as outside authors.

The *Review* publishes articles by professors, judges, and practitioners and solicits reviews of important recent books from recognized experts. All articles — even those by the most respected authorities — are subjected to a rigorous editorial process designed to sharpen and strengthen substance and tone.

Most student writing takes the form of Notes, Recent Cases, and Recent Legislation. Notes are approximately 22 pages and are usually written by third-year students. Recent Cases and Recent Legislation are normally 8 pages and are written mainly by second-year students. Recent Cases are comments on recent decisions by courts other than the U.S. Supreme Court, such as state supreme courts, federal circuit courts, federal district courts, and foreign courts. Recent Legislation look at new statutes at either the state or federal level.

Student-written pieces also appear in the special November and April issues. In addition to the Supreme Court Foreword (usually by a prominent constitutional law scholar), faculty Case Comments, and a compilation of statistics about the Court's previous Term, the November issue includes about 20 Leading Cases, which are analyses by third-year students of the most important decisions of the previous Supreme Court Term. The April issue features the annual *Developments in the Law*, an in-depth treatment of an important area of the law prepared by third-year editors of the *Review*.

All student writing is unsigned. This policy reflects the fact that many members of the *Review* besides the author make a contribution to each published piece.

For more information about the *Harvard Law Review*, see Erwin Griswold's [Glimpses of Its History \(/1987/01/glimpses-of-its-history-as-seen-by-an-aficiona-](/1987/01/glimpses-of-its-history-as-seen-by-an-aficiona-)

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## MEMBERSHIP



Membership in the *Harvard Law Review* is limited to second- and third-year law students who are selected after an annual writing competition. The *Review* strongly encourages all students to participate in the writing competition. Harvard Law School students who are interested in joining the *Review* must write the competition at the end of their 1L year, even if they plan to take time off during law school or are pursuing a joint degree and plan to spend time at an-

other Harvard graduate school. Students who spent their 1L year at other law schools and are applying to transfer to Harvard Law School must write a competition in the spring of their 1L year and must be admitted to Harvard Law School to become a member of the *Review*.

Forty-eight editors are invited to join the *Review* each year. Twenty editors are selected based solely on their competition scores. Seven editors, one from each 1L section, shall be selected based on an equally weighted combination of competition scores and 1L grades. Three editors shall be selected based on an equally weighted combination of competition scores and 1L grades, without regard to section. Eighteen editors shall be selected through a holistic but anonymous review that takes into account all available information. The *Review* remains strongly committed to a diverse and inclusive membership.

Applicants who wish to make aspects of their identity available through the *Law Review's* holistic consideration process will have the opportunity to indicate their racial or ethnic identity, physical disability status, gender identity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. Applicants also have the option of submitting an expository statement of no more than 150 words that identifies and describes aspects of their background not fully captured by the categories provided on the form. Statements will be considered by the Selection Committee *only* after grading of the Subcite and Case Comment sections of the competition has been completed. Statements will remain anonymous and will not be evaluated for quality of writing or editing, nor will they be assigned a numerical score. Applicants are welcome to draft their expository statements before the competi-

tion week begins, and the prompt for the 150 word statement is as follows: "You may use the space below to submit a typed expository statement of no more than 150 words that identifies and describes aspects of your identity not fully captured by the categories on the previous page, including but not limited to racial or ethnic identity, socioeconomic background, disability, gender identity, and/or sexual orientation."

The *Law Review* expects to invite editors to join Volume 133 over the course of several days during the second half of July. This timeline is subject to change and any updates will be posted to this website when available. Orientation for new editors will begin on Wednesday, August 1.

## WRITING COMPETITION



The writing competition for the Class of 2020 will begin on Saturday, May 12, after the completion of 1L final exams, and end on Saturday, May 19.

The competition consists of two parts. The subcite portion of the competition, worth 40% of the competition score, requires students to perform a technical and substantive edit of an excerpt from an unpublished article. The case comment portion of the competition,

worth 60% of the competition score, requires students to describe and analyze a recent Court of Appeals or State Supreme Court decision.

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### **Competition Tips Session and Subcite Training Session**

The General Tips Session was held on Tuesday, April 10 from 4:45 pm - 6:15 pm in Langdell Hall 272. Click [here](#) to access the video recording of the Tips Session. Click [here](#) to access an information packet and practice Subcite.

The Subcite Training Session was held on Thursday, April 19th from 4:45 pm - 6:15 pm in Langdell Hall 272. A video recording of the Subcite Training Session is available [here](#).

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### **Receiving the Harvard Law Review competition materials off campus**

If you would like to take the competition, but will not be on campus when the competition is distributed on Saturday, May 12, you may request that the competition materials be shipped to you via Federal Express. The cost for the mailing is \$45.

In order to have the competition mailed to you, you must complete the **FedEx shipping form**. The deadline to submit the form is Friday, May 4.

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## **Information for Prospective Transfer Students**

Prospective transfer students have the option of taking the competition at the same time as Harvard Law School 1Ls, or taking a separate transfer competition running from May 19-26. Like the regular competition, the transfer competition has a case comment and sub-cite portion. There is no advantage to taking either competition, and transfer students should take whichever competition is most convenient with their schedule. Transfer students are selected on the same blind grading basis as Harvard 1Ls and are eligible for 38 of the spots on the *Review* (in other words, all spots besides the 10 allotted to Harvard 1Ls for whom first-year grades play a role). Transfer students may submit an anonymized, unofficial transcript when their 1L grades are released if they would like their grades to be considered in the *Law Review's* holistic review process.

As noted on the Harvard Law School website, the deadline for completing a transfer application is June 15, so many prospective transfer students will not have been accepted to Harvard Law School at the time of the competitions in May. Many prospective applicants may not even have decided whether to apply to transfer, in part because they may not yet know their spring semester grades. Notwithstanding these uncertainties, the *Review* strongly encourages prospective transfer applicants to write a competition. While being selected to join the *Review* in no way guarantees a transfer applicant admission to Harvard Law School, it is the policy of the *Review* to inform the admissions office whenever a transfer student successfully gains membership on the *Review*.

Prospective transfer students who would like to take the competition from Saturday, May 19 to Saturday, May 26 may register by completing the **transfer applicant FedEx shipping form**. The cost for the mailing is \$45. The deadline to submit the form is Friday, May 11.

### **Information for SJD Students**

SJD students at Harvard Law may serve as editors of the *Law Review*. To join, SJDs take the same writing competition as JD students and are eligible for 38 of the editorial positions (all spots besides those allotted to JD 1Ls for whom first-year grades play a role). Serving as an editor of the *Law Review* is a two-year commitment so SJDs should take the competition only if they are certain they have at least two years remaining in their program of study. Additionally, as with all candidates, SJDs are permitted to participate in the writing competition only once.

### **Information for Students with Disabilities**

The *Harvard Law Review* provides accommodations on the writing competition to students with documented disabilities on an individual, case-by-case basis. To request an accommodation, please email a completed registration form to Lakshmi Clark-McClendon, Director of Student Affairs in the Dean of Students Office, at [lclark@law.harvard.edu](mailto:lclark@law.harvard.edu). In order to allow sufficient time to review documentation, students must submit their requests no later than April 13, and are encouraged to submit documentation as soon as possible. Please note that although accommodations decisions are ultimately made by the *Review*, no student will receive personal identifying information about any student requesting accommodation.

## Religious Accommodations

Students with unavoidable religious conflicts during the competition, including those fasting for Ramadan, should email [lawrev@law.harvard.edu](mailto:lawrev@law.harvard.edu) to request an accommodation.

### THE BLUEBOOK



The Bluebook is the definitive style guide for legal citation in the United States, compiled by the editors of the *Harvard Law Review*, the *Columbia Law Review*, the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, and the *Yale Law Journal*. The Bluebook is available for purchase in hard copy, or online (including a mobile version for the iPad, iPhone, or iPod Touch) at [www.legalbluebook.com](http://www.legalbluebook.com).