

MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW VOLUME 107 (2008-2009)

WRITE-ON POLICY

In addition to those students admitted to the *Law Review* through the Spring Writing Competition, we allow students at our law school to become members of the *Law Review* by producing and publishing a Note. The write-on procedure is available to any student who has completed a full year at Michigan Law School and will be enrolled at the Law School during the 2008-09 school year. To complete the write-on procedure successfully, a candidate must produce a Note and have it accepted for publication by September 8, 2009. This timeline offers candidates the opportunity to complete the process during their second year and the summer that follows it. Candidates may be members of other Journals during the write-on process.

The *Law Review* allows students to become a member of the Journal through either the “aided” write-on process or the “unaided” write-on process. In the aided write-on process, candidates follow a strict schedule in developing their Notes and, in return, receive assistance and editing from the Notes Office. In the unaided write-on process, candidates work on their own without assistance from the Notes Office. For either process, the piece must be entirely the candidate’s own, and the Note may not be one originally written to fulfill a writing requirement of another Journal, and may not be a piece that has been edited by another Journal. Candidates are encouraged, however, to seek help from faculty members.

A. Aided Write-On Process

Candidates interested in participating in the aided write-on process should contact the Managing Editor as early as possible.

Admission into the aided write-on process is by application. An applicant must submit a full outline of her Note by September 28, 2008. The Notes Office will consider all of these proposals and select those that we believe demonstrate the greatest likelihood of being published. We will consider (1) the strength and feasibility of the thesis, (2) the cohesiveness of the argument as presented in the outline, and (3) the extent to which the outline demonstrates research sufficient to support a publishable piece of scholarship. The Notes Office encourages any applicants not admitted into the aided write-on process to continue through the unaided process.

This process contains several non-negotiable deadlines. If the candidate fails to meet any deadline, she must then follow the unaided write-on process without any further help from the Notes Office.

Deadline	Submission/Action
September 28, 2008	Submit full outline of Note (typically 8 to 10 pages) + Roadmap Paragraph
October 5, 2008	Notes Office reviews all outlines, and chooses those to be admitted into the aided write-on process. Each selected author

	will be assigned a Note Editor.
October 26, 2008	Submit 1st segment
November 23, 2008	Submit 2d segment
January 25, 2009	Submit full draft
September 2, 2009	Note must be approved for publication by this date
October 4, 2009	Note must reach publication with any required revisions

After a candidate submits a full draft of her Note, her Note Editor determines whether to recommend the Note for a Pass-Off Read or ask the candidate to make revisions. As described above, the Note Editor recommends the Note for a Pass-Off Read when she believes it is substantially free from problems of argument, organization, support, and style. The Note may proceed through additional rounds of revisions before the Note Editor feels that the Note is ready for a Pass-Off Read. In the Pass-Off Read, a second Note Editor reviews a candidate's manuscript and recommends additional changes. Following those revisions, the Note Editor determines whether the Note is in publishable condition. If she believes it is, the candidate's Note proceeds to a Full Read.

In the Full Read, the Managing Editor, the Executive Notes Editor, and the Pass-Off Reader meet to evaluate the Note and decide whether to recommend it for publication. A candidate's Note Editor is present, but not a voting member of the Read. If the Read does not recommend the Note for publication, the candidate is disqualified from the aided write-on process.

Once the Full Read Committee has recommended the Note for publication, the candidate has successfully completed the write-on process and so becomes an Associate Editor of the *Law Review*, with its accompanying privileges and duties. Candidates have until September 8, 2009 for their Notes to be recommended for publication (i.e., pass the Full Read stage). After that date, the candidate is ineligible to become a member of the *Law Review*.

B. Unaided Write-On Process

At any time, a student may submit a full draft of her Note to the Executive Note Editor ("ENE") for review under the unaided write-on process. If the ENE determines the Note to be in publishable condition, she passes it on to a Full Read. If the Full Read committee recommends the Note for publication, the candidate has completed the write-on process and so becomes an Associate Editor of the *Law Review*. If the ENE or Full Read committee rejects the Note, however, the candidate does not receive any further consideration or any substantive feedback as to why the Note was rejected. The candidate may not resubmit the Note for consideration. As with the aided write-on process, the candidate must have her Note recommended for publication by a Full Read committee no later than September 8, 2009. The candidate should contact the ENE to determine when the Note should be submitted to guarantee enough time for consideration.

The unaided write-on process is also available to students who do not wish or are not eligible to become members of the *Law Review*, but wish to have their independent work (e.g., a piece written in an independent study course or a seminar) published in the *Law Review*.

C. Upon Successful Completion of the Write-On Process

Once a candidate's manuscript is approved for publication, she is a full Associate Editor of the *Law Review*. The *Law Review* will add her name to the Masthead for that year's volume, and she will assume the publication-related responsibilities of an Associate Editor, including citechecking, sourcegathering, pageproofing, and administrative duty. She has until October 4, 2009 to make any changes to her Note required by the Read and to finalize it for the publication process. An Associate Editor who joins the *Law Review* through the write-on process commits to publishing her Note by this date.