

THE MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW  
HUTCHINS HALL/325 SOUTH STATE STREET  
ANN ARBOR, MI 48109-1215

March 28, 2011

Dear Prospective Applicant,

The *Michigan Law Review* process begins in a few weeks with the opening of our application website. We invite you to apply. Although we have been *MLR* editors for less than a year, it has proven to be one of the most rewarding aspects of our law school careers. Most *MLR* editors would agree with us. The *Law Review* has challenged and rewarded us more than any other law school experience.

Our procedures are designed to select roughly forty-five motivated Associated Editors. There is no GPA cut off for *MLR*. In fact, those candidates with the strongest Writing Competition submissions are guaranteed membership regardless of their first-year GPA. We strongly encourage you to apply.

Enclosed you will find the following documents:

- *MLR* info sheet with key dates and FAQs
- A list of contacts who are willing to answer your questions
- Testimonials from current members on how to approach the Writing Competition
- Volume 110 Selection Policy, Application, and Procedures

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail either of us or any member on the contact list. We look forward to your submission.

Regards,



Amy Murphy  
Editor-in-Chief  
amymurph@umich.edu



Charlie Weikel  
Managing Editor  
cweikel@umich.edu

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Monday, April 11** Journal Application, Competition ID numbers, and the Memorandum of Understanding are available at <http://www.law.umich.edu/journalsandorgs/journalapplications>.
- Wednesday, April 20** Journal Application due online by 5:00 pm E.D.T. Print and retain a copy of the confirmation e-mail. Also print and retain the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”).
- Monday, April 25** If you cannot pick up your Writing Competition materials in person, or if you will be submitting the Writing Competition from outside the United States, you **MUST** contact Maureen Bishop, [maureena@umich.edu](mailto:maureena@umich.edu), by **5:00 pm E.D.T. on April 25**.
- Thursday, May 5** Writing Competition materials available for purchase at the Publication Center, 371 Legal Research, at 9 am E.D.T. In order to receive the materials, applicants must (i) bring in their signed MOU; (ii) show a valid University of Michigan ID; and (iii) bring \$20 to pay for their packets. The packet will be available from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm from Thursday, May 5 through Monday, May 16. **It will not be available on the weekend.**
- Monday, May 16** Writing Competition, Pledge, personal statement, and Note proposal must be submitted to the Journal Application website by 5:00 pm E.D.T.
- Monday, August 29-  
Friday, September 2** Associate Editor Orientation

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*What is the Michigan Law Review?*

The *Michigan Law Review* is a student-run, student-edited, legal journal that, since 1902, has published eight issues a year, with articles, essays, book reviews, and student-written Notes and comments. *MLR* also has an online companion, *First Impressions*, which seeks to address timely and interesting legal questions. Visit [www.michiganlawreview.org](http://www.michiganlawreview.org) for more information.

*What are Associate and Contributing Editors?*

Associate Editors are editors in their first year of membership on *MLR*. Contributing Editors are editors in their second year of membership who do not serve on *MLR*'s Editorial Board.

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*How are Associate Editors selected?*

Associate Editors are selected from among the first-year class and eligible joint-degree students. *MLR* selects Associate Editors based on their performance on the Writing Competition, their grades in the seven mandatory first-year classes (including Legal Practice), and their personal essays. This year, *MLR* plans to select approximately forty-five Associate Editors.

*How do I apply?*

The application process has two stages. Stage One, which takes place before finals, requires applicants to complete an online application and obtain a Competition ID number. Stage Two, which takes place after finals, requires applicants to submit a signed information release form in exchange for the Writing Competition materials, and complete the Writing Competition, Pledge, personal statement, and Note proposal.

*What is the time commitment for an *MLR* editor?*

Working on *MLR* is a two-year commitment. The responsibilities include being in Ann Arbor both semesters of the coming academic year, writing a Note, completing 250 assigned hours of assignments over two years, and working as a Contributing Editor or an Editorial Board member in your second year on *MLR*. Contributing Editors can take a semester-long externship or study-abroad during their second year on *MLR* so long as they complete e-mail based assignments while away. Due to their shorter on time on the journal, summer starters cannot go abroad if they are selected for *MLR*. All *MLR* members, including summer starters, are eligible for the Editorial Board.

*What is a Note?*

A Note is a student-written work that identifies an unresolved legal issue and argues for a unique position. Practitioners and scholars turn to Notes for concise, comprehensible articulations of complex legal topics; for arguments to persuade judges, lawmakers, administrative bodies, or other scholars; and for succinct explications of existing authority.

*Why should I apply?*

The *Law Review* editing and Note-writing processes improve each editor's writing, develop each editor's analytical skills, and trains the editor to pay careful attention to detail. Lawyers with these skills flourish and distinguish themselves as great advocates, advisors, public servants, and academics. Most importantly, the *Law Review* is a community with diverse interests and areas of expertise working toward a common goal, publication of the journal.

*What do I do if I experience problems with the Application or Writing Competition?*

Contact the Managing Editor Charlie Weikel at [cweikel@umich.edu](mailto:cweikel@umich.edu).

**CONTACTS**

The following *MLR* members have offered to be contacted with any questions:

<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Other Commitments</b>
Kaley Connelly	kaleyc@umich.edu	ELS
Keith Klovers	keithkl@umich.edu	RELS
Jeff Koh	jeffkoh@umich.edu	Asia Law Society
David Levine	levinedp@umich.edu	NSLS
Chloe Holzman	ch@umich.edu	LLSA WLSA WOCI OPIS FSAP Summer starter
Rebecca Klein	kleinrm@umich.edu	WLSA Summer starter
Ted Koehler	tedkoehl@umich.edu	Outlaws Summer starter
Matt Monahan	monahamc@umich.edu	ACS Academic tutor Summer starter
Amy Murphy	amymurph@umich.edu	Senior Judge
Jordan Peterson	jordanp@umich.edu	Federalist Society Outlaws
Mani Potnuru	potnuru@umich.edu	IPSA
Charlie Quigg	cquigg@umich.edu	Senior Judge Regulator <i>Res Gestae</i>
John Ringwood	ringwood@umich.edu	Summer starter
Theresa Romanosky	tromanos@umich.edu	WLSA ACS

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Adam Speegle	aspeegle@umich.edu	
Will Thomas	wtrw@umich.edu	ACS Dual-Degree student Summer starter
Nick Wasdin	nwasdin@umich.edu	ILS
Charlie Weikel	cweikel@umich.edu	CLSA

## **TESTIMONIALS**

“Here's the way I handled the writing competition: I didn't think about it for a while. We had about ten days to do the competition. I got the packet as soon as I could after my last exam, but then I spent the first three days of the competition moving out of Ann Arbor, going home, and kicking back and not looking at it. That was probably the best decision I made; it really helped cut all that awful law-schooly apprehension about it.

After that, I took the first day to just sit down with the Bluebook and make a list of all the citations for all of the sources. Then I had three days to read and outline my response, two days to write the competition materials, and one last day to check everything over and mail it in. I found that I had plenty of time to do everything I wanted to that week. Just make sure you've got a lot of paper and ink for your printer at the end of it.”

*-John Barkmeyer, Executive Editor of Pageproofing*

“Most of the battle with tackling the writing competition is psychological. Your brain is exhausted from 1L year, you're worn down from finals, but you still have to rally for the writing competition. This causes a lot of people to quit before they even start. The packet looks too large, the prompt is too confusing, or whatever excuses a tired brain throws out there. But you have to treat it as the last hurdle between 1L year and summer, if you really want to give yourself a fair shot at law review and other journals.

With that in mind, it is important to (1) take a little break before starting the competition and finishing finals and (2) plan ahead for how you want to finish the competition. Personally, I took a break to move home for the summer and sleep, before even looking at the packet. Then I made myself a schedule of how many days I would take to read, cite, write and edit. For the most part, I stuck to schedule throughout the process. It significantly reduced anxiety, when trudging through the seemingly endless reading, that I was on schedule. I found that I actually allotted too much time in the end to writing, which gave me more time for editing on the back end. That was a good thing. In the end, I finished the competition in 6 days without resorting to an all-nighter, questionable hygiene or stimulants stronger than a triple-shot latte. But of course, everyone is different, and you should plan according to your own strengths and weaknesses.

There is no reason not to finish. Once you get this far and you have resolved to do this, do not let little things like a tricky cite deter you from finishing. Make sure you allot enough time to read, and read carefully with the prompt's question in mind. I also suggest citing all the sources before starting to write. This will make the writing process faster-- bluebooking tends to interrupt one's writing flow. This also gives you ample time to mull over the tougher cites. I personally prefer to also make an outline before I get started on writing. Try not to panic on day three that you haven't written a word yet. There's not that much to write! It's more important to know what you want to write.

Good writing shines through even if your arguments may not. I would not waste time obsessing over being original in argument as being thorough, clear and concise in writing. Be kind to the graders! The writing competition is not the time to abandon the comma or adopt a new vocabulary comprised of only SAT words. There are only going to be two sides of the argument, so the grader is not looking for originality but good argumentative writing and reasoning. Know your argument and stick to it, abandoning the irrelevant and redundant points. This is why I suggest allocating time for thorough editing. Typos are bad, but sentences that are logically incoherent are worse. In the end, the writing competition is less than 10 pages, so the hard part will be staying under the limit not hitting the limit.

As you read, write, and cite, don't be afraid to take mental health breaks. Eating and sleep are recommended. I would switch gears by working on other journal applications or my personal

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statements. Remember, there's more to be done than just the writing competition, and you should just embrace those other parts as a necessary break from your competition.

Finally, submit your competition and forget about it. There's nothing more you can do, and, as long as you gave yourself the best chance at success, you have nothing to be ashamed about no matter the result. Then have a beer, and enjoy your summer and new status as a 2L."

*-Emily Huang, Note Editor*

"I would suggest leaving yourself as much time as possible, try to stay in one place the whole time, and read all of the formatting rules very carefully. I left myself about eight days, two of which I was on the road, and I worked until the last minute. Before writing, I read through all of the materials, properly bluebooked the citations for everything provided in the packet, and wrote a brief summary of each piece. I also copied any quotes that I thought would be really relevant. If you do not know how to cite to something somewhat obscure, don't worry, the point is to work by analogy. After that, I picked a side, organized the material into an outline, and then began to write. It is really important to make sure to you're complying with all of the formatting guidelines before you start writing. When I had an hour and a half left I realized that the line settings for my legal practice class allowed way more than the lines allowed for the writing competition. I had to cut a page and a half in an hour and made it to the post office five minutes before it closed. Despite the stressful race to the finish, the writing competition was one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in law school and I got a pretty decent writing sample out of it as well. I hope you all decide to participate, and have fun!"

*-Aurora Maoz, First Impressions Editor*

"My writing competition advice is neither elaborate nor original (sorry, Nike): just do it. The competition is tough, but extremely rewarding – whatever your result, I am confident you will be glad you completed it. Plus, there are ways to mitigate the short-term pain. You will certainly find the methods that work best for you, but it is at least worthwhile to consider seemingly common approaches such as taking a day or two off after your last exam, skimming the Bluebook before you begin, and preparing the citations at the outset. If you do indeed choose to complete the competition, after ten days you can say that you have done it. And then you can enjoy your entire summer."

*-Joey Michaels, Contributing Editor*

"The writing competition is a major endeavor, but it's also an opportunity to become well versed in an unsettled area of the law in just a week. So have fun with it, and remember to take a break between exams and the competition.

We will give you all the sources you need; read them, reflect on (and bluebook) them, and then make your argument. My advice is, first, to outline your argument. Begin writing the bulk of your argument only after you have composed your "roadmap" paragraph, which lays out the moves you're about to make in your Note. Next, write it. Make about three solid, well-supported points, transition well, and explain what you attempt to prove at each step of your argument. A clear, deliberately organized argument is better than something creative but unstructured. Finally, leave yourself ample time to edit the piece. I usually need to remove myself from my writing for at least a few hours before I make effective edits. I suggest leaving a day just for editing. Good luck!"

*-Amy Murphy, Editor-in-Chief*

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“My advice can be summed up in one word: "perseverance." Finishing the competition is half the battle. It's also okay if you feel that you are going back and forth on which side of the argument to take. Which side you take doesn't matter at all and so just take a position and stick with it. You will have plenty of time so it is okay to take an occasional break to keep your sanity. In terms of mechanics, using good topical sentences is very important. Avoid any grammatical, punctuation, and other mechanical errors. No matter what, do not cite to sources outside the packet (including dictionaries).”

*-Mani Potnuru, Executive Production Editor*

“I strongly urge you to apply for the Michigan Law Review and any other journals in which you are interested. The writing competition is not nearly as bad as many make it out to seem, and the potential benefits of participating in a journal are well worth the time it takes to apply, unpleasant as the application process may be. But I think that the application window provides plenty of time to craft a strong submission, so you need not work the entire time – or even a majority of the time. For that reason, I recommend taking a couple of days off before diving too deeply into the materials in order to mentally refresh after final exams (though make sure to carefully read all of the directions up front). As a way to transition into the competition, I found it helpful to complete any mechanical or administrative requirements – such as the citation exercises that other journals may require – before opening up the packet. Make sure to read and reread the prompt so that you fully internalize the topic before combing through the sources in the packet. And don't assume that you know how you will answer the prompt until after you have finished reviewing the sources. I read the sources under the assumption that I would answer the question one way, but after finishing the packet and digesting the materials, I realized that I could marshal better arguments for the other side. So try to remain open-minded. And try to enjoy the fact that, unlike classes or final exams, you can at least dictate your own schedule during the competition. Finally, remember to edit your submission carefully with an eye toward detail and consistency. If you have any specific questions about the writing competition, feel free to e-mail me at [zproulx@umich.edu](mailto:zproulx@umich.edu) at any point before the competition begins.”

*-Zach Proulx, Executive Editor of Pageproofing*

"Dear Writing-Competition-Takers,

To begin with, this competition is not something to freak out about. Yes, the packet looks looming, and you're exhausted from finals, but take a deep breath – this is very doable. For what it's worth, here's some advice on the basics. First, you should take that initial weekend off. You can use it to recharge your batteries and clear your head after exams; I never even took a look at the packet until that Monday. Second, secure a good study area sans-distractions, and plan on hunkering down there a good 8-10 hours a day for the next week. That sounds bad, but if you treat it like a job, it's not too stressful. You can relax in the evenings and forget about it. If you put those hours into it, you'll be golden. Don't worry about being creative or clever, just put the work in and hammer it out. The biggest hurdle is finishing, and if you can do that, you've put yourself in a great position. Good luck!"

*-Adam Teitelbaum, Notes Editor*

“A summer starter who hadn't paid much attention to Legal Research in the first place, I had been too long absent from the Bluebook. Between finals and the competition, I sat down and read it cover-to-cover, flagging exceptionally random rules that I wouldn't likely remember.

The day of the competition I picked up the materials, read the prompt, and then began

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working through the packet materials. My overall strategy was first annotate the packet (Day One), and work through the citations (more than I expected of Day Two). After that initial work was done, I was able to spend a good amount of my time outlining, writing and revising. Every other day I would revisit the Bluebook materials—it helped to have some time off from the project—to make sure I had my citations correct. I've been writing much longer than I have been cite checking; I found the Bluebook work for *MLR* and other journals to take more time than I expected, and I was glad I started early.

This plan worked well, though admittedly it helped that I had a week free of other obligations. After several days, I took a break from the entire project—about two full days, if I recall—and revisited everything. The morning the packet was due I walked to campus and turned in my information.”

*-Will Thomas, Executive Articles Editor*

“Like many people, I needed a couple days off between the end of exams and the Writing Competition, so I spent the weekend after exams leisurely packing up my things and heading to my family’s home. Since I thought that being at home could be distracting, I decided to work on the Writing Competition at my family’s cabin in northern Michigan. In hindsight, that was a great choice.

When I finally started the Competition on Monday afternoon, I began by reading through and taking notes on the sources. This ended up taking me far longer than I had anticipated—roughly two and a half long days. Before starting to write, I read through the sample Notes to see what the *Law Review* had picked in the past and made a comically brief outline. Then I just started writing, filling in my argument (and doing correct citations) as I went. By Saturday, my Note was pretty much complete, so I decided to take a break by writing my personal statement and Note topic proposal. I spent the rest of my time proofreading my Note and double-checking my citations before dropping my application in the mail on Monday.

In all, I probably spent seventy to eighty hours on the Competition. While it certainly was tough at times, I am very glad I stuck with it. And even though I spent a substantial part of each day on the Competition, I still had time to relax and enjoy myself.”

*-Charlie Quigg, Executive Editor of Pageproofing*

“People think there is some secret trick to the Writing Competition. There isn’t. You just need to work hard and diligently at it. Be thorough. Focus on fundamentals. Don’t try and be fancy or clever. It’s important to just write clear, strong sentences. Also, reserve substantial time for revising. The revision stage is where the quality emerges. Graders will be going through piles of submissions. In essence, a lucid submission is a sign of clear thinking. It will go much further than some verbose mess.

As for how you tackle it, I took the weekend off to decompress. I am not a big outliner. But for the Writing Competition, I worked hard on it. I am glad I did because it helped control all the materials. Then, I basically treated it like a 9 to 5. The Writing Competition can be demanding at times. It is a tough turnaround after finals. Everyone contemplates quitting. But you just have to muscle through it. Honestly, everyone is capable of writing a strong submission. It’s not rocket science. You just need to be determined.”

*-Charlie Weikel, Managing Editor*

## I. The Law Review Selection Policy

This year, the *Law Review* will select approximately forty-five incoming Associate Editors from among the first-year class and eligible joint-degree students. The *Law Review* has two goals: we publish legal scholarship and we train tomorrow's legal scholars.

We seek two characteristics to achieve these goals. The first characteristic is a strong work ethic. The *Law Review* is a significant commitment. During the first year on the *Law Review*, Associate Editors spend approximately 150 hours gathering sources and cite checking our pieces. They also plan, research, and write a substantial piece of novel legal scholarship. During the second the year on *Law Review*, many of our members will critique and edit the works of leading scholars. Some will guide and develop legal scholarship from the ground up. Others will manage a complex production system. Hard work, however, is a consonant theme throughout.

The second characteristic is a cooperative and enthusiastic attitude. The *Law Review* publishes eight issues annually. Our schedule requires the energy and care of many people working in concert. Teamwork, dedication, and the ability to work collaboratively with a group of diverse and committed peers are crucial to the *Law Review*.

We believe our selection procedures identify students capable of fulfilling the *Law Review's* responsibilities. Our application is demanding but well worth the effort you put into it. The *Law Review* provides immense rewards for students who are enthusiastic about working hard to publish excellent scholarship and improve the law school community.

The *Law Review* application process is blind. Student reviewers will only see an applicant's Competition ID number. No member of *Law Review* will know what combination of factors, including grades, led to any individual's acceptance to the *Law Review*. Applicants should not include in their applications *any* identifying information, including their name, university student ID number, or social security number. Once the incoming Associate Editor class is chosen, all ticket numbers linking applicants to their applications will be destroyed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Managing Editor, Charles Weikel, at [cweikel@umich.edu](mailto:cweikel@umich.edu).

## II. Stage One: Online Application

This year, all journal applications will go through a central website located at <http://www.law.umich.edu/journalsandorgs/journalapplications>. The online Journals Application will be available from **Monday, April 11, 2011 at 9:00 am E.D.T. until Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 5:00 pm E.D.T.** Applicants can update their submitted online Journals Application information at any time before the April 20 deadline. Subsequent visits will retain the applicant's information. If an update is made, the contact information will be updated, but the applicant's Competition ID number will remain the same. The *Law Review* application has two stages. Stage One requires the following:

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(1) *Complete the online Journals Application and obtain a Competition ID Number.*

Applicants must submit their contact information. After logging into the Journals Application page, applicants should fill out the blank application form. The applicant must select *all* the journals that he or she intends to apply to. If the applicant fails to do so, then the applicant will be ineligible to apply for any omitted journals. This form will be used for all journals. After filling out the form and clicking “Save,” each applicant will receive a confirmation e-mail that contains the applicant’s Competition ID number.

(2) *Print a copy of the Journals Application confirmation email.*

Applicants must print the confirmation e-mail. This e-mail will arrive at the address the applicant provided in the online Journals Application. If a problem arises regarding your application, you must be able to produce this printed copy of the confirmation e-mail.

(3) *Print a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding & Release Form (“MOU”).*

Applicants must print the MOU before the Online Journals application closes on April 20 . When applicants pick up their writing competition materials, this form acknowledges the commitment *Law Review* members undertake. Additionally, it authorizes the *Law Review* Manager, a non-student member of the Michigan Law School staff, to access the applicant’s first-year grades. The MOU is found under the *Michigan Law Review* tab on the Journal Applications website.

### **III. Stage Two: Writing Competition**

Stage Two requires applicants to complete the following tasks:

(1) *Bring Identification Documents and \$20 (cash or check) for the Writing Competition materials.*

First, applicants must bring the following items to obtain the writing competition materials:

- (a) a signed copy of the MOU;
- (b) \$20 in cash or check to cover the cost of printing the writing competition materials; and
- (c) a valid University of Michigan ID (other forms of identification will not be accepted).

Applicants may pick up these materials from the Publication Center, 371 Legal Research. Materials will be available beginning on **Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 9:00 am E.D.T.**, and will remain available from 9 am to 5 pm, on weekdays only, until the Writing Competition deadline of **Monday, May 16, 2011 at 5:00 pm E.D.T.**

(2) *Submitting the Full Law Review Application.*

Second, applicants must submit a completed application. A completed application includes:

- (a) a Writing Competition submission;
- (b) a Pledge (scanned or retyped);
- (c) a 400-word personal statement;
- (d) a 400-word note proposal; and
- (e) the removal of all personal metadata from the applicant's material.

Applicants must submit their materials through the Journal Applications website. The submission page is located under the "Submit writing competition materials" tab. When an applicant has uploaded the materials, the site will rename their file with the Competition ID number. Entries may not include the applicant's name, social security number, or other identifying information. **All submissions must either be in ".pdf" or ".doc" format. The website will not accept ".docx" format.**

Applicants must submit their materials on the Journal Applications website by **Monday, May 16, 2011 at 5:00 pm E.D.T.** When you log on to the Journals website, please submit your materials under the assigned slots in the "Submit Writing Competition materials" tab. Applicants do not need to submit their materials all at once. Applicants can upload new submissions in place of their originals.

The Writing Competition measures an applicant's clarity of argument, precision of writing, use of legal authority, and accurate use of citation form. The provided materials are sufficient for a successful entry. **Outside research is not allowed.** Applicants can, however, consult *The Bluebook* (19th ed.), *Black's Law Dictionary*, or any manual of style.

Each applicant must sign a Pledge that is in the Writing Competition packet. Please scan or retype a copy of the Pledge in the Writing Competition packet and submit it through the Journal Applications website. Applicants should interpret the Pledge broadly to forbid students from seeking or receiving any assistance in research, reasoning, argumentation, or writing. If an applicant needs to use professional typing and word processing services, such services may not include editing in any manner whatsoever. The applicant must citecheck footnotes without the assistance of computer programs or other individuals.

Each Applicant must submit two 400-word essays – the personal statement and the note proposal – with the Writing Competition entry and Pledge. These essays must respond to the two questions that appear later in this document and will be reproduced in the Writing Competition materials. Again, the Writing Competition, Pledge, personal statement, and note proposal must be turned in no later than May 16, 2011 at 5:00 pm E.D.T.

Since the Writing Competition is blind, applicants will need to remove personal data from their file. Such information is called "metadata," which includes the author name. The Journal Applications website will have specific instructions on how to remove this data from a submission.

**IV. BEING UNABLE TO PICK UP THE WRITING COMPETITION MATERIALS IN PERSON;  
SUBMITTING WRITING COMPETITIONS FROM OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES**

Some applicants will be unable to pick up the Writing Competition materials in person or will submit their materials from outside of the United States. These applicants must contact Maureen Bishop, [maureena@umich.edu](mailto:maureena@umich.edu), before **5:00 pm E.D.T. on Wednesday, April 25, 2011**. If an applicant fails to contact Maureen about this issue, the *Michigan Law Review* may be unable to review the applicant's application.

**V. WRITING ON TO THE *LAW REVIEW* AS A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT**

Students may also submit a publishable Note during their second year to join the *Law Review* for their third year. For student's submission to be successful, several readers from the Notes office must approve the submission. The *Law Review* does publish Notes from nonmembers after their second year. However, such students are not eligible to become members of the *Law Review*.

The above policy is subject to the details and deadlines set forth in the *Michigan Law Review* Write-On Policy. You may obtain more information about writing-on and publishing in the *Michigan Law Review* by contacting the Managing Editor, Charlie Weikel, at [cweikel@umich.edu](mailto:cweikel@umich.edu).

## VII. FACTORS IN THE SELECTION OF ASSOCIATE EDITORS

In evaluating applicants, the *Law Review* will consider the following materials:

1. A completed Writing Competition.
2. The applicant's individual grades from the seven required first-year courses (civil procedure, contracts, criminal law, constitutional law, legal practice, property, and torts).
3. A 400-word essay, the personal statement, with the following instructions:

The *Michigan Law Review* would like to know about any academic experience, leadership experience, or other life experience, skills, or training that you believe would be particularly useful to your work on the journal. Please tell us about any such experiences, attributes, or achievements that demonstrate your fitness for work on the journal as an editor, administrator, or legal scholar.

4. A 400-word essay, the Note proposal, with the following instructions:

One of your most important duties to the *Law Review* will be to write and publish a Note. A Note is a student-written article that attempts to advance an innovative approach or solution to an interesting, unsettled legal issue. Please describe a topic you might select for your Note. It should be an unanswered question in some area of the law, but you need not have a well-informed position on it at this time. Please tell us why you think the issue merits further scholarly debate and what value a Note on this topic would contribute to the *Law Review*. You will not be bound by your proposed topic if you are accepted onto the *Law Review*. However, thoughtfully choosing a topic demonstrates your commitment to creating publishable scholarship, and it will significantly improve your Note-writing experience as an Associate Editor of the *Law Review*.

## VIII. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The *Michigan Law Review* prizes strong reading, writing, and analytical skills. Many metrics measure these skills. However, the *Law Review* believes that the Writing Competition is one of the most reliable of these metrics. Our staff invests extensive time and energy developing the Writing Competition so that it accurately gauges these skills. Based on past volumes, the *Law Review* has placed substantial weight on a candidate's submission.

As a consequence, there is no "Law Review GPA" or GPA cutoff. High grades will not assure acceptance. Low grades will not assure disqualification. Many candidates will become members based solely on their writing competition submissions. Regardless of first year grades, candidates must invest substantial effort in the Writing Competition in order to maximize their chance of admission.

## IX. Deferral Policy for Joint-Degree Students

### *Terms:*

The *Law Review* commitment is divided in two terms. All terms occur after the candidate has completed his or her first year of law school. The First Term of the *Law Review* commitment (“First Term”) runs from August of Year 1 (August after 1L) to March of Year 2. During the First Term, a member is an Associate Editor. Normally, the Second Term of the *Law Review* commitment (“Second Term”) runs from March of Year 2 to March of Year 3. However, if a candidate chooses to defer the Second Term, usually because he or she is pursuing a joint degree, then the candidate would serve the Second Term in a subsequent year (e.g., if a candidate deferred a year, it would be from March of Year 3 to March of Year 4).

### *Requirements:*

#### **(1) Eligibility for All *Law Review* Candidates**

- (a) If the candidate is a fall starter, then the candidate must not have completed more than 31 credits at the Law School. If the candidate is a summer starter, then the candidate must not have completed more than 43 credits at the law school.
- (b) This must be the candidate’s first time applying to the *Law Review*. Candidates may only apply to the *Law Review* once. They may only apply before the Second Term.
- (c) The candidate must apply to the *Law Review* upon completion of the candidate’s first year of law school.
- (d) The candidate must fulfill the First Term commitment immediately after the candidate’s first year of Law School.

#### **(2) Deferrals for Joint-Degree Candidates**

- (a) A joint-degree candidate may defer the Second Term to a subsequent year.
- (b) Joint-degree candidates may apply to the Editorial Board. However, a candidate may only apply to the Editorial Board once.
- (c) A candidate does not need to be enrolled in the Law School while fulfilling his or her *Law Review* commitment.

**Comment**

1. The following example illustrates the application of section 2(a) to a candidate who wishes to defer his or her Second Term:
  - Joint-degree candidate is offered and accepts membership on the *Law Review* in July of Year 1.
  - Joint-degree candidate, now an Associate Editor, serves on the *Law Review* from August of Year 1 to March of Year 2.
  - Joint-degree candidate defers the Second Term and thus does not serve on the *Law Review* from March of Year 2 to March of Year 3.
  - In March of Year 3, joint-degree candidate begins the Second Term, serving as either a member of the Editorial Board or a Contributing Editor.
  - Joint-degree candidate completes the *Law Review* commitment in March of Year 4.
  
2. This policy applies to all students who are first-year law students for the academic year of 2010-11. Prior years will be bound by the Volume 109 policy. To receive a copy of this policy, please e-mail the Managing Editor, Charles Weikel, at [cweikel@umich.edu](mailto:cweikel@umich.edu).