



The Law Journals at University of Minnesota Law School

Do you want to be on the forefront of legal scholarship? Do you want to take a deep dive into research on a legal topic that interests you and write about it? Do you want to impact the work of leading scholars in the legal community? If so, consider joining one of University of Minnesota Law School's four law journals!

Our student-edited law journals select, edit, and publish legal scholarship from top contributors across the country. As a staff member on a journal, you will work with editors to ensure our Articles are accurate, supported by authority, and impeccably cited. You will also contribute your own ideas to legal academia by researching and writing a Note or Comment on a topic in law that interests you. For those interested, there is also a competitive publication process for these pieces of student writing.

If that interests you, it's time to start thinking about the journal petitioning process! The Law Journal Petition Committee would like to encourage everyone who is interested in becoming a journal staff member to submit a petition. To that end, please carefully review this explanation of the petition process and familiarize yourself with the four law journals at the Law School. You should also review the introductory video for each journal at <http://www.minnesotalawreview.org/about/membership>.

This packet also contains information about training opportunities. These will equip you with knowledge, strategies, and practice problems to help you create a successful petition, so please take advantage of them! Recordings of the sessions will be posted.

For **questions** about the petition process, please attend our training events or contact us at lawpetitioning@umn.edu.

Please Note: The petition will be scheduled and administered **remotely**.

The Petition Process

All four journals select their staff members through a single petition process conducted after finals. Petitioners write one petition and submit it to as many journals as they want, ranking the journals according to preference.

The petition includes a **Case Comment** (50% of the petition score) and a series of **Bluebook Exercises** (50% of the petition score). The **Case Comment** is a written piece about a recent

case. It is a closed-research exercise, so the case and all supplemental materials that you may use will be provided to you in a source packet. The case comment has a **maximum page limit of 15 pages** (12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced). The **Bluebook Exercises** are a set of incorrect citations that you will edit and correct. These are designed to test your knowledge of the Bluebook and attention to detail, two important skills for law journal staffers.

The petition period runs from Thursday, May 12 at 8:00 AM through Sunday, June 5 at 11:59 PM. Each petitioner will have the full window to complete the petition. This is a change from prior years in which petitioners selected a shorter period within the petition window to complete their petition. This year, everyone has the entire window. The petition process is conducted and graded anonymously.

The Selection Process

After the petitions are graded, each petitioner has a “petition score,” which is calculated as 50% Case Comment and 50% Bluebook. Each journal extends offers based on its own competition criteria, which is based on the **petition score** and may also include **personal statements**. Details about journal-specific selection criteria are provided below. We encourage you to apply to all the journals that interest you.

Accommodations

Students seeking a variance should complete the following form. Reasons for variance include, but are not limited to: sudden illness, religious accommodations, and emergencies. The request will be evaluated anonymously by the Petition Committee, under the guidance of the Dean of Students, and someone will reach out to you directly regarding your request. At no point will any student have access to identifying information about other students submitting variance requests.

Students requiring accessible text materials or other accommodations related to accessibility of petition materials can either complete the above form or contact the Disability Resource Center directly. The Disability Resource Center can be reached at drclaw@umn.edu or by calling (612) 626-1333.

Students requesting variances or accommodations are encouraged to make requests as soon as possible to ensure appropriate materials or resolutions are provided in a timely manner. A general overview of the Law School's Disability Accommodation process is summarized under 'Disability Accommodations' on the Student Support Resources webpage:

<https://law.umn.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-life/wellness-wellbeing>

Petition Training Events

****NOTE:** Zoom links, on-demand training, and recordings of events will be posted at <http://www.minnesotalawreview.org/about/membership>.

General Information Events

Case Comment On-Demand Training: [Video](#); [PowerPoint](#); [2021 Case Comment Instructions/Rubric & Lead Case](#); [2022 Case Comment Examples](#)

This training will introduce you to the case comment component of the petition. You will become familiar with strategies for approaching the source packet and writing process.

Bluebook On-Demand Training: [Video](#), [PowerPoint](#)

This training will introduce you to the Bluebook exercises. In addition to showing the mechanics of the exercises, this training will also provide helpful tips for navigating the Bluebook and getting ready for the petition process.

Bluebook Breakout Events 1-4

Please review the on-demand Bluebook training before attending a breakout session. *Each session will feature a chance to ask questions about the exercises, Bluebook strategies, and preparation tips. Attending at least one is strongly encouraged, and each will feature an on-demand exercise if you want more practice. These events are staffed by the people who developed this year's exercises, so they are the experts!*

Bluebooking #1: Tuesday, April 12, 12:15–1:15 PM (MLR reps) (Room 15) [[Breakout exercise video](#)] [Practice Exercises](#)

Bluebooking #2: Friday, April 15, 12:15–1:15 PM (JIL reps) (Room 15) [[Breakout exercise video](#)] [Practice Exercises](#)

Bluebooking #3: Monday, April 18, 4:15–5:15 PM (JLST reps) (Room 35) [[Breakout exercise video](#)] [Practice Exercises](#)

Bluebooking #4: Friday, April 22, 11:30–12:30 PM (JLI reps) (Room 25) [[Breakout exercise video](#)] [Practice Exercises](#)

Additional Bluebook Resources & Training

Wellbeing and Petitioning: Wednesday, May 11, 2:00–3:00 PM [Zoom link TBA]

Last Minute Petitioning Office Hours with Current Journal Members:
Wednesday, May 11, 3:00–4:00 PM [Zoom link TBA]

Petition Period

Petition Period: Thursday, May 12 at 8:00 AM through Sunday, June 5 at 11:59 PM
*Petitioners will have the entire petition period to complete their petition components.
Petitioners will send their completed petition lawpetitions@umn.edu.*

Offers Extended: June 19–June 28

*Editors-in-Chief will reach out to petitioners who have been selected to join journal staff.
We ask that you keep your journal offer/acceptance confidential either until the end of the
offer period or until after all four journals have published their mastheads, whichever
occurs first.*

IMPORTANT:

The petition will be administered remotely. Students will have the entire petition window to finish.

Questions? Email lawpetitioning@umn.edu.

Additional information is posted on the Minnesota Law Review website:

<http://www.minnesotalawreview.org/about/membership>

The Minnesota Journal of Law and Inequality

The *Minnesota Journal of Law and Inequality* will select approximately **25 staff members**.

Selection Criteria

All positions: **65%** Petition; **35%** Personal Statement

About the Journal

Law & Inequality (“JLI”) was founded in 1981 under the direction of Professor Catharine MacKinnon to examine the social impact of law on marginalized segments of society. It became the law school’s second journal and is meant to fill a void in legal scholarship on issues of inequality. The Journal publishes two issues annually and brings in high-quality scholarship from a broad spectrum of disciplines. All published articles share a nexus between law and inequality, though the subject matter is diverse. Articles focus on race, poverty, sexual orientation, gender, national origin, age, disability, and other manifestations of inequality. Journal articles can take social, empirical, doctrinal, experiential, literary, or community-based approaches to understanding these issues. *Law & Inequality* ranks nationally among law journals for scholarly impact in the areas of **immigration law (#2)**, **family law (#3)**, **civil rights (#10)**, **minority, race and ethnic issues (#7)**, and **gender, women, and sexuality (#7)**, based on the Washington and Lee University law journal rankings. In addition to a traditional journal, Law & Inequality also has an online publication, Inequality Inquiry, in which staff members will have the opportunity to publish in various formats.

Personal Statements

The personal statement is an important factor in selecting each staff member. Statements should reflect interests, experiences, and perspectives on issues concerning law and inequality in its various forms. We are looking for students who demonstrate an awareness of current inequality issues and who can articulate how these issues affect others. *Law & Inequality* strives to be a welcoming journal that is diverse in thought and experience. Your personal statement must be **no more than one page in length**, single spaced, and in Times New Roman, 12- point font. We will evaluate personal statements based on both content and style. *Law & Inequality* also provides a freeform section during the petition application where you can provide any information you think the journal should know about you when considering your application. *JLI* takes an expansive view of diversity: this includes a non-exclusive list of factors like race, ethnicity, class, caste, disability, economic and geographic upbringing, nationality, sexual orientation, gender, and other characteristics like students who are veterans, domestic partners, care givers, parents, non traditional students, international students, students who work part-time or full-time, LGBTQ+ and GNC students, etc.

If you have any questions about *JLI*, you may contact **Mercedes Molina, Editor-in-Chief** (molin397@umn.edu).

The Minnesota Journal of International Law

The *Minnesota Journal of International Law* will select up to **25 staff members** (with up to 3 positions for transfer students and/or rising 3Ls).

Selection Criteria

All positions: **65%** Petition; **35%** Personal Statement

About the Journal

The *Minnesota Journal of International Law* (“JIL”) is a leader in the multidisciplinary study of international & comparative law. Founded in 1992 as the Minnesota Journal of Global Trade, today our journal publishes scholarship on all aspects of international law. We publish two issues annually with articles focusing on, but not limited to, politics and international relations, economics and trade, intellectual property, human rights, comparative law, inter-governmental organizations, and environmental law. Every staff member has the opportunity to delve deeper into an international issue of their choice, as well as the chance to be published. Our journal hosts a symposium on a biennial basis to discuss timely and critical international issues. Our next symposium is tentatively scheduled for the Spring of 2024.

Personal Statements

We will evaluate personal statements based on content and style. **The statement should be one page in length**, single-spaced, and in Times New Roman, 12-point font. The statement should discuss your specific interest in international and/or comparative law. It should also describe any experiences that helped you develop that interest or any career goals you have pertaining to such interest. Please also explain how you will make a good addition to our team and our journal community. The *Minnesota Journal of International Law* is interested in members who bring diverse ideas and experiences to our staff. We specifically seek to build a culture that prizes cross cultural fluency amongst all members of our journal community.

If you have any questions about *JIL*, please contact **Editor-in-Chief Zack Taylor** (tayl2148@umn.edu).

The Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology

The *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology* will select up to **22 staff members** (with up to 3 positions for transfer student applicants and rising 3Ls).

Selection Criteria

All positions: **65%** Petition; **35%** Personal Statement

About the Journal

The *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology* (“JLST”) is a cutting-edge multidisciplinary journal focusing on the intersection of law with STEM disciplines. Prospective staffers are not required to have any previous science or technology background to join our publication, but an interest in issues relevant to law, science and technology is required. The journal is edited by law students with the support of a Faculty Editorial Advisory Board drawn from across the University of Minnesota. *JLST* staffers have the opportunity to publish commentary on current law, science, and technology issues on an ongoing basis through the journal’s **LawSci** blog. *JLST* is an influential publication, currently ranked by Washington & Lee as one of the top 100 law journals in the country and specifically ranked as the **#6 journal for science, technology and computing law**.

Personal Statements

MJLST will read personal statements for both style and content. **Personal statements should be one page**, single-spaced, and in Times New Roman, 12-point font. In the past, students have come to the journal with both technical and non-technical backgrounds. Regardless of educational background, however, all members of *JLST* have an interest in how the law relates to issues of science and technology. In their personal statement, applicants should highlight their background in science, health and medicine, or technology (e.g. an undergraduate or graduate degree or relevant work background) and/or interest in law and science (e.g. a plan to pursue a joint degree; and interest in bioethics, the environment, or technology; relevant volunteer experience). We are interested in members who can contribute to the journal by providing new perspectives on science and technology from a variety of interests and life experiences. Most importantly, we look for a willingness to engage in the dynamic nexus of law, science, and technology, even if it is for the first time.

For further information or any questions about *JLST*, please contact **Editor-in-Chief Claire Colby** (colby082@umn.edu).

The Minnesota Law Review

Minnesota Law Review will select **39 staff members** (with up to 2 positions for rising 3L applicants).

Selection Criteria

Minnesota Law Review selects staffers using two different pathways. All 1L petitioners are eligible for both pathways.

Pathway 1: **100%** Petition (21 positions)

Pathway 2: **75%** Petition; **25%** Personal Statement (18 positions)

About the Journal

Minnesota Law Review (“MLR”) was founded in 1917 by a Minnesota Law professor to “contribute a little something to the systemic growth of the whole law.” The journal, and the staffers and editors who publish it, has done that and more. Now in its 107th year, *Minnesota Law Review* is one of the preeminent general interest law journals in the country—consistently ranked among the top 20 nationally, most recently ranked 11th based on a combined score in 2021. We publish six issues per year, reflecting a broad array of scholarship. Staffers may write their student Note or Comment on any legal topic of interest to them, guided by a dedicated Note & Comment Editor and faculty advisor. Staffers will have the opportunity to submit their Note or Comment for publication in the following volume of the journal. Staffers are also expected to contribute a short piece of writing to **De Novo**, the *Minnesota Law Review* blog. *Minnesota Law Review*’s annual symposium will take place in spring. The event will bring together preeminent legal minds to discuss legal education reform and workshop innovative pedagogical models for legal instruction in the 21st century. The final issue of Volume 107 will publish work from the symposium.

Personal Statements

Diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences are essential to craft a high-quality publication. That is why we are committed to promoting equity in our staffing. This year, *Minnesota Law Review* is removing 1L grades from consideration for potential staffers. But that’s not the full story. Without appreciating and exploring different identities and perspectives, we cannot develop legal scholarship alongside the evolving world. *Minnesota Law Review* utilizes personal statements to evaluate these qualities in petitioners, particularly because they are not as evident from the other portions of the petition. Personal statements may reflect an experience or perspective that prepares the petitioner to be a positive addition to *Minnesota Law Review*, including diverse identities of all kinds. Petitioners choose the specific topic of their personal statements, but regardless of the topic, it is critical that the petitioner clearly explain how their experience(s) shape the way they view the world, and then make a connection between the experience(s) and their qualifications/interest to be a *Minnesota Law Review* staffer.

Minnesota Law Review will evaluate personal statements based on both substance and style. We will also be scoring personal statements based on writing competency, grammar, and spelling. The statement should be **no more than one page** single-spaced, and in Times

New Roman, 12-point font. Students petitioning for *Minnesota Law Review* are not required to submit a personal statement. Declining to submit a personal statement will, however, disqualify you from consideration for those positions that take the personal statements into account. Please remember that, while personal statements by nature contain aspects unique to each petitioner, you should not include your name in order to keep the process anonymous.

New staffers must be on campus for both semesters of their first year on *Minnesota Law Review*, and must be able to attend Law Review Orientation, which will tentatively be held the week of August 22nd. While not a strict requirement, *Minnesota Law Review* expects 2L staffers to commit to two years on the journal, working in the capacity as an Editor in the second year.

For more information about *MLR*, please contact **Editor-in-Chief Leah Reiss** (reiss048@umn.edu). We look forward to meeting you!