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## Submitting Articles to Law Reviews

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## Law Review Submissions Information, 2012 Update

February 15, 2012

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For more information, check our library guide:

<http://libraryguides.kentlaw.edu/lawreviewsubmissions>

### **What Law Reviews Want**

We have updated our survey of websites of the top 50 law reviews. We found that, in general, law review editors prefer:

- Submission via ExpressO
- Shorter articles - under 35,000 words, including footnotes
- Citations in Bluebook format
- Cover letters and CVs; some also request abstracts and word counts
- Footnotes instead of endnotes

However, not all law reviews require the same formatting and styles. Check individual law review websites for current criteria.

Allen Rostron and Nancy Levit, *Information for Submitting Articles to Law Reviews & Journals*, 2012. Available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1019029>.

In addition to detailed submission information for over 200 law reviews, this guide also includes information about expediting procedures. Last updated February 2012.

The Law Review Submissions Tracker, <http://prawfsblawg.blogs.com/prawfsblawg/2012/01/law-review-submission-tracker.html>

A spreadsheet for tracking your article throughout the process:

### **Law Review Rankings**

*Law Journals: Submissions and Ranking*

<http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx>

Ranks US and selected non-US specialty and general law journals using several citation studies, including current citations, journal citations from over 9 years, and case citations. Now includes data for 2010; 2011 should be available by the end of the month. From Washington and Lee.

*Writing for & Publishing in Law Reviews: Which Are the Best Law Reviews?*

<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/lawrev5.html>

Links and information about several law journal ranking studies, including other citation studies, author prominence studies, expert surveys, and compilations. From the University of Washington, compiled by Mary Whisner and Ann Hemmens (2010).

### **Submitting Articles using ExpressO**

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

When uploading articles in ExpressO, authors must include:

- At least one author
- Full text of the article (preferably in MS Word)
- At least one subject area, e.g. “Workers Compensation Law” or “Partnerships”

Authors must specify whether the paper is public or private. Public papers will be added to the faculty member’s Selected Works page and to the BePress articles database.

Authors may upload a cover letter or CV. In addition to subject areas, authors may also add their own key words which will help make articles easier to find in the BePress articles database. Authors may include an abstract if they wish.

ExpressO also includes tools for expediting articles, but check with individual law reviews to see if the editors prefer to receive expediting requests by ExpressO or email. Note that many law reviews will not accept expedite requests over the phone.

A list of journals that use ExpressO can be found here: <http://law.bepress.com/expresso/list.html>

### **ExpressO Alternative: LexOpus**

<https://lawlib.wlu.edu/lexopus>

A few years ago, Washington and Lee launched LexOpus, a free article submission service. The service is now run by the Yijun Institute for International Law. LexOpus includes over 500 US and international law journals. Note that while authors may select any number of journals, submissions are limited to a queue of 20 journals at a time. After one of the 20 journals rejects an article, then the next journal the author selected is added to the queue.

LexOpus also features an “open to offer” service where authors can upload articles and make them available to a pool of over 1300 journals.

### **Author Rights**

Authors should retain the right to post their published articles in electronic databases such as SSRN, BePress, and institutional repositories. Authors should be sure to check their publication agreements and request modification if necessary.

Michelle Pearse, *Publishing in Law Reviews and Journals, Author Rights* (2010). Available at: <http://libguides.law.harvard.edu/content.php?pid=68282&sid=512106>.

### **Hints and Tips**

Faculty authors have shared a few tips that have worked for them, but note that individual editors have their own criteria and tastes.

- *Format your submission to look like a published article*  
Some say this impresses editors, while others say it has no effect. Adding complicated formatting in Word leads to extra work for the editors, who then must remove the formatting before publication.
- *Stagger your submissions throughout the submission season*  
This technique has been popular for a while, but there's not much evidence that it is effective.
- *Find the "perfect time" to submit articles*  
Some say the best time to submit is as soon as the board turns over, when the new editors are ready to accept new articles. Others say wait a few weeks after a new board starts because then the editors are more seasoned.