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Submitting Articles to Law Reviews

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Law Review Submissions Information, 2010 Update

February 4, 2010

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Submitting Articles to ExpressO

ExpressO requires:

- At least one author
- Full text of the article
- At least one subject area, e.g. "Workers Compensation Law" or "Partnerships"

Most law reviews will accept only Word documents.

You will need to determine if you wish to make your paper publicly available. Public papers will be added to your Selected Works page and to the BePress article database.

You may also upload a cover letter or CV. In addition to subject areas, you may add your own key words to help make your article easier to find in the BePress database. You may include an abstract as well.

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.

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

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 over 8 years, and case citations. Data for 2009 will be uploaded soon. From Washington and Lee, data compiled by John Doyle.

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).

Russell Korobkin, *Ranking Journals: Some Thoughts on Theory and Methodology*, 26 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 851 (1999). Available at <http://www.law.fsu.edu/Journals/lawreview/downloads/264/koro.pdf>.

Analyzes and critiques various ranking methods.

Alfred L Brophy, *The Signaling Value of Law Reviews: An Exploration of Citations and Prestige*, 36 FLA. ST. U. L. REV 229 (2009). Available at: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1095799>.

Detailed fifteen-year citation analysis of all articles published in 1992 from 13 leading journals.

What law reviews are looking for

I recently surveyed the websites for the top 50 law reviews. These are the criteria the editors generally requested:

- Submit articles via ExpressO
- Shorter articles, under 35,000 words
- Citations should be in Bluebook format (18th Ed)
- Include a cover letter and a CV; some request abstracts
- Use footnotes instead of endnotes
- Use double spacing

However, not all law reviews request the same formatting and styles. Check the law review's website for current criteria.

Allen Rostron and Nancy Levit, *Information for Submitting Articles to Law Reviews & Journals*, 2009. Available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1019029>.

In addition to detailed submission information for nearly 200 general law reviews, it also includes information about expediting. Last updated in June 2009.

Sample Law Review Submission Cover Letters

<http://www.concurringopinions.com/archives/2009/08/sample-law-review-submission-cover-letters.html> (Aug. 4, 2009).

The Concurring Opinions blog discusses the usefulness and proper format of submission cover letters.

Writing for & Publishing in Law Reviews: How Can I Submit an Article to a Law Review?

<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/lawrev3.html>

Information about contacting law reviews as well as information about publication agreements. From the University of Washington, compiled by Mary Whisner and Ann Hemmens (2009).

Navigating the Selection Process

Leah M. Christensen and Julie A. Oseid, *Navigating the Law Review Article Selection Process: An Empirical Study of Those with All the Power -- Student Editors*, 59 S.C. L. Rev. 175 (2007). Available at:

<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1002640>.

Jason P. Nance & Dylan J. Steinberg, *The Law Review Article Selection Process: Results from a National Study*, 71 ALB. L. REV. 565 (2008). Available on Hein.

Two recent studies which surveyed law review editors to determine which factors influenced their decisions when publishing articles.

Jonathan Gingerich, *A Call for Blind Review: Student Edited Law Reviews and Bias*, 59 J. Legal. Educ. 269 (2009). Available at: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1524538>.

Peer Reviewed Scholarship Marketplace

<http://www.legalpeerreview.org/>

“The Peer Reviewed Scholarship Marketplace (“PRSM”), a consortium of student-edited legal journals, exists to provide student-editors with peer evaluations of legal-scholarship manuscripts and to assure the publication of quality articles. PRSM connects authors and journals with subject matter experts, who through their reviews provide editors with the information they need to make informed decisions regarding article selection.”