2-26-2009

Submitting to Law Reviews

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Debbie and Vince researched current trends in law review submissions. We contacted the editors of the top 50 law reviews to learn how and when they prefer to receive submissions. We contacted the editors of the top 25 law reviews to find out if they had any formatting preferences. We also compiled submissions information from the websites of the top 50 law reviews.

Our findings are summarized below and in the attached table. In addition, we have included general information about ExpressO and law review submissions trends.

**Submitting Articles to ExpressO**

ExpressO requires:

- Manuscript
- Cover letter
- CV
- Two or three key terms and/or phrases that describe your article
- A subject area, e.g. “Workers Compensation Law” or “Partnerships”

Also, you will also need to determine if you wish to make your paper publicly available. Public papers will be added to your Selected Works page.

Note: If the journal you are submitting to requests identifying information not be included or double spacing, ExpressO will format the paper to meet the journal’s specifications. ExpressO will also send hard copies to those few journals that require them.

A list of journals that use ExpressO can be found here: [http://law.bepress.com/expresso/list.html](http://law.bepress.com/expresso/list.html)

**Law Review Submissions Trends**

Washington and Lee provides a great deal of information about law review submissions at their Law Journals: Submissions and Ranking site: [http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx](http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx)

When asked their preferred submissions method, editors of 44 of the top 50 law reviews said they preferred ExpressO, though some said they would accept submissions by other methods. For the most part, law reviews prefer to have articles submitted only once.

Some law reviews prefer authors use a form on their law journal websites:

- Harvard
- Yale
- Stanford

When contacted, Washington University Law Review’s editors said they prefer to have submissions sent directly to them, but its website says that ExpressO and email is preferred. Similarly, Columbia’s and University of Pennsylvania’s editors said to use ExpressO, but their websites say to use their submissions forms.

Ohio State would like paper submissions.
When asked if the editors prefer article submissions to be formatted to resemble law reviews, more minimal formatting, or if it did not matter, the editors responded:

- Does not matter: 10
- Minimal formatting: 4 (William and Mary, Fordham, Vanderbilt, California)
- Formal formatting: 3 (Columbia, New York University, Texas)

Editors strongly prefer well-formatted footnotes. Most submissions guidelines pages specifically mention the law review uses the Bluebook (18th Ed.).

Most law review editors want articles submitted as traditional Word documents (.doc, not .docx).

Many law reviews prefer articles with less than 25,000 words; some limit articles to less than 35,000 words (exceptions can be made).

Anonymous submissions are required by:

- Harvard
- Stanford

In general, law reviews would like authors to include:

- Cover letter with abstract and word count
- CV
- Table of contents
- Double spaced text
- Footnotes (not endnotes)

Harvard expressed a preference for exclusivity. Articles should not be sent to other journals until 10 days after submitting to HLR. See the HRL policy page for more information.

Wake Forest requests that contributing authors disclose any economic interests and affiliations that may influence the views expressed in submissions, but this issue was not raised by the other submissions websites.

**Helpful Articles**


