



The Yale Law Journal

VOLUME 122 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The *Journal* invites the submission of unsolicited Articles, Essays, Book Reviews, and *Yale Law Journal Online* Essays and Responses via our online submission system. We are no longer accepting pieces forwarded from services such as ExpressO. Please email us at submissions@yalelawjournal.org if you encounter any problems using our online interface.

I. Timing Your Submissions to the *Journal* and Other Publications

Exclusive Submission: We consider each manuscript we receive using an extensive review process, which can take several weeks. In the past, a number of authors have found themselves faced with the uncomfortable pressure of having to make a decision about an offer from another journal before we were able to complete our review process. The best way to avoid this situation is to allow the *Journal* time to review your piece. **We encourage you to submit your piece to us exclusively for two weeks.** If you are submitting during the summer, we suggest that you not submit to any other journal before August 25. Authors submitting to us on an exclusive basis should submit directly via our online submission system rather than through a service such as ExpressO and use the prompts to indicate the date that they will send the piece to other journals.

Expedite Requests: If you have received an offer of publication from another journal, please request expedited review of your submission via your author submissions account (<http://ylj.yalelawjournal.org/authors/index.html>), and our editors will be immediately notified of your deadline. If you are confronted with an imminent deadline, please also email submissions@yalelawjournal.org. Please note that because of our extensive review system, any submission that is expedited for a date less than three weeks from our initial receipt of the piece may be disadvantaged. To avoid this problem, we again encourage you to submit to us on an exclusive basis for a limited time period. The vast majority of the pieces we have accepted in recent volumes have not been expedited, and expedited review provides your piece with no competitive advantage in our process.

II. Restrictions on Student Authorship and Co-Authorship

Volume 122 of the *Journal* will not review submissions for inclusion in its Articles and Essays sections if the sole author is a current JD student (at the Yale Law School or elsewhere). We strongly encourage current YLS students to submit their scholarship to the *Journal* for consideration as Notes and Online Essays, and current JDs at other institutions to submit their scholarship to their institution's own journals for comparable consideration. We will only consider Articles and Essays co-authored by JD students if one of the co-authors is *not* a current JD candidate.

III. Requirements for the Content of Submissions

Length: The *Journal* is committed to publishing work that is not only original, provocative, and persuasive, but also concise. Recently, the *Journal* joined with eleven other leading law journals in affirming our commitment to this goal. For Essays, the *Journal* encourages submissions of **fewer than 17,500 words** (roughly 35 *Journal* pages), **including footnotes**. For Articles, the *Journal* strongly encourages submissions of **fewer than 25,000 words** (roughly 50 *Journal* pages), **including footnotes**. For submissions that exceed these word counts, length will be a factor that weighs against acceptance of the manuscript. The *Journal* may be unable to respond to authors submitting lengthy manuscripts in a timely fashion. For Book Reviews, the *Journal* requires submissions of **fewer than 15,000 words** (roughly 30 *Journal* pages), **including footnotes**. Manuscripts that exceed this word count will not be considered.

Anonymity: The *Journal's* Articles and Essays committees review manuscripts anonymously, without regard to the author's name, prior publications, or pending publication offers. We therefore ask that you remove all identifying information (including your name, affiliation, and acknowledgments) from the manuscript and the file name. Please also redact any identifying information in headers and footnotes. Do ensure, however, that the title of the manuscript appears on the first page. (Before circulating the anonymized manuscript to the committee for review, one editor will screen submissions to ensure the author is not a JD candidate and to remove identifying information for any author who does not follow these requirements, but we encourage your compliance.)

Abstract: Submissions should include a short abstract that summarizes the main arguments and contribution of your Article, Essay, or Book Review.

Data: We strongly recommend submitting .do and .dat files with any empirical submissions, and we may request this data before deciding whether to extend an offer of publication. We are able to consider the piece more quickly if the files are provided at the time of submission.

IV. How We Conceive of Our Different Forms of Scholarship

Articles and Essays: The *Journal* publishes professional scholarship under two rubrics: Articles and Essays. The division between these two forms serves not merely to separate longer pieces from shorter ones, but to encourage two distinct and complementary approaches to legal analysis. Articles typically occupy traditional zones of scholarship and put forth fully developed arguments. They devote substantial space to situating themselves within existing research, and they often frame their arguments as answering and advancing influential works in the field.

Essays need not comprehensively treat their subject; the focus should be on presenting new ideas, not canvassing the existing literature. Essays should be narrower in scope than Articles, but the subject matter should be of general scholarly interest. Essays may experiment with style, tone, and voice. We have an expansive view of the potential content of an Essay. For example, an Essay may reframe an existing legal question, present a surprising empirical study,

or advance a novel policy suggestion. The ultimate goal of an Essay is to start a new and interesting scholarly conversation.

Please note: You may submit as either an “Essay” or “Article” to help us more accurately assess your piece. However, our editors may consider each submission for both categories unless otherwise requested in the cover letter.

Book Reviews: The *Journal* invites scholars to submit reviews of books that are forthcoming or that have been published within the past twelve months. The best reviews do not merely respond to the book in question but also use the book as a springboard for new lines of scholarly inquiry. Excellent examples from recent issues of the *Journal* include Josh Chafetz, *Multiplicity in Federalism and the Separation of Powers*, 120 YALE L.J. 1084 (2011) (reviewing ALISON L. LACROIX, *THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIGINS OF AMERICAN FEDERALISM* (2010)); and Frederick Schauer, *The Best Laid Plans*, 120 YALE L.J. 586 (2010) (reviewing SCOTT J. SHAPIRO, *LEGALITY* (2011)).

YLJ Online Essays and Responses: Scholarship published on *YLJ Online* has typically been shorter, timelier, and accessible to a general audience. The *Journal* seeks three types of submissions for *YLJ Online*, with an approximate word count of 1500-6000 words (excluding footnotes). First, we invite members of the academy and the legal profession to submit original essays that bear directly on events unfolding in the present. The timeliness should be such that these ideas ought to be published at once, rather than at the end of a yearlong editorial process.

Second, we encourage academics and practitioners to use the *YLJ Online* forum to engage with and challenge one another or to speak to a broader audience. These pieces blend the common appeal of op-eds with the rigor of scholarship. Last, we also solicit content in the form of responses to our print pieces and symposia commentaries.

V. Conflicts of Interest

Once a submission is accepted by the *Journal*, the author(s) will be required to disclose all potential conflicts of interest in the first footnote of the published version. Authors must identify any organizations that provided funding for the research or writing of the manuscript, as well as any personal or family financial interests that might be pertinent to the piece’s conclusions. Authors must also disclose their involvement in any litigation that is referenced in or relevant to the Article, Essay, or Book Review. The *Journal*’s publication offers are all contingent upon authors’ compliance with this conflict-of-interest policy.