



The Yale Law Journal

VOLUME 136 FORUM SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

I. WHAT TO SUBMIT

YLJ Forum pieces are authored by scholars, practitioners, and students, and they are generally timelier and more accessible to a general audience than other *YLJ* publications. We particularly encourage pieces that grapple with current or actively unfolding legal issues. *YLJ Forum* pieces that engage judges, policymakers, and practitioners are likewise encouraged. In addition to their publication on the *YLJ Forum* website, all *Forum* pieces are available on HeinOnline, LexisNexis, and Westlaw.

YLJ Forum accepts submissions for *Forum* pieces in addition to soliciting them. We invite *Forum* submissions for Volume 136 from all students, faculty, and practitioners. You may submit a *Forum* Essay, Response, Collection piece, or Exchange proposal at any time after the [submission portal](#) opens on **January 28, 2026**. Submissions of draft Essays are reviewed by the *Forum* Committee without knowledge of the authors' identities.

We are committed to publishing work that is concise and readable. We strongly encourage submissions be between **6,000 and 10,000 words, including footnotes**. For submissions that exceed 10,000 words, length will be a factor that weighs against acceptance of the piece.

While the Committee anticipates that accepted manuscripts will increase in length throughout the editing process, we will not publish *Forum* Essays longer than 14,000 words without special approval from *YLJ*.

Forum Essays

Forum Essays are original and timely pieces that bear directly on unfolding legal events, blending the common appeal of op-eds with the rigor of scholarship. A successful *Forum* Essay is:

- **Original:** The Essay should make a novel intervention in a particular field of legal scholarship, doctrine, or practice, situating itself within an existing discourse and changing the way legal scholars and professionals view a given issue.
- **Accessible:** The Essay should be clear, concise, and accessible with an overarching thesis that is supported by each section. Without compromising nuance, the Essay should carefully explain complex arguments, concepts, and terminology for the reader, inviting broad engagement from *Forum*'s readership.

- **Timely:** The Essay should address current or open questions in the legal field, resolving or grappling with actively unfolding issues. Frequently, a strong Essay will still draw on historical research or analysis to advance its argument about a contemporary legal issue.
- **Justified:** The Essay should be analytically sound. Each step in the argument should be well-supported by legal authorities. The Essay should provide persuasive evidence for each of its conclusions and acknowledge the limits of its central argument.
- **Publishable:** In an effort to maintain our commitment to publishing timely scholarship, *Forum* gives preference to Essays that are as ready for publication as possible. To that end, citations should be complete and unambiguous. The *Journal* follows *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (22d ed. 2025) for citation form and the *Chicago Manual of Style* (18th ed. 2024) for stylistic matters not addressed by *The Bluebook*.

For recent examples, see:

- Douglas NeJaime, [Before Losing](#), 135 YALE L.J.F. 63 (2025).
- Joanna C. Schwartz, [Backdoor Municipal Immunity](#), 132 YALE L.J.F. 136 (2022).
- Kyle Langvardt & James Fallows Tierney, [On “Confetti Regulation”: The Wrong Way to Regulate Gamified Investing](#), 131 YALE L.J.F. 717 (2022).

Forum Responses

Forum Responses are scholarly reactions to our print and online content. Academics, practitioners, and students use *YLJ Forum* to engage with one another's scholarship and ideas. *YLJ Forum* may feature multiple Responses to a given online or print piece. Responses should meet the same high standards as *Forum* Essays and be original, accessible, timely, justified, and publishable. They should also engage with scholarship in a respectful and thoughtful tone.

For recent examples, see:

- Eli Nachmany, [Remedies and Incentives in Presidential Removal Cases](#), 133 YALE L.J.F. 305 (2023) (responding to Z. Payvand Ahdout, *Separation-of-Powers Avoidance*, 132 YALE L.J. 2360 (2023)).
- Anthony O'Rourke, [The Ostensible \(and at Times, Actual\) Virtue of Deference](#), 131 YALE L.J.F. 615 (2021) (responding to Anna Lvovsky, *Rethinking Police Expertise*, 131 YALE L.J. 475 (2021)).

Forum Collections

Forum Collections are explorations of a single legal subject, with authors contributing distinct perspectives and engaging in dialogue with each other. In addition to meeting all of the standards of *Forum* Essays, a successful Collection is:

- **Feasible:** The typical *Forum* Collection includes four pieces. As such, we encourage scholars to submit Collections that include no more than four contributions. Additionally,

Collections that already include first drafts of pieces are highly preferred over proposals that simply describe potential writing.

- **Well-Conceived:** Each piece within the Collection should bring out a different element of the same legal topic. Collections should have a single thematic throughline but not incorporate duplicative pieces.

For recent examples, see:

- [The Religion Clauses Post-Kennedy](#), 133 YALE L.J.F. (2023).
- [Revitalizing State Constitutions: A Turning Point for State and Federal Constitutional Rights](#), 133 YALE L.J.F. (2023).

Forum Exchanges

Forum Exchanges feature authors writing separate pieces in direct dialogue with one another on the same timely issue. *YLJ Forum* is accepting proposals for Exchanges through our submission portal. In addition to meeting all of the standards of *Forum* Essays, a successful Exchange is:

- **Collegial:** Exchanges, like all of *Forum*, are designed to open discussion and generate new insights. Even in disagreement, they should demonstrate curiosity about and openness to another author's work.
- **Responsive:** Exchanges should actively engage with another author's arguments and identify weaknesses in their claims. Each piece should illuminate the other, not operate solely as a standalone work.

For a recent example, see:

- [A Debate on the Future of the Legal Profession: Increased Nonlawyer Participation](#), 132 YALE L.J.F. (2022), which included the following pieces:
 - Ralph Baxter, [Dereliction of Duty: State-Bar Inaction in Response to America's Access-to-Justice Crisis](#), 132 YALE L.J.F. 228 (2022).
 - Stephen P. Younger, [The Pitfalls and False Promises of Nonlawyer Ownership of Law Firms](#), 132 YALE L.J.F. 259 (2022).

II. HOW TO SUBMIT

YLJ Forum accepts pieces on a rolling basis throughout the year. All *Forum* submissions must be submitted through *YLJ*'s [online submission system](#). You may submit your piece at any time after the portal opens on January 28, 2026.

Your submission of a draft piece should provide a word count, including footnotes, on the first page. Please note that in addition to uploading your submission, you must upload a Preemption Memo in the "Supplementary Files" field that explains your piece's relationship to any existing scholarship in no more than 500 words.

If you are submitting a proposal for a *Forum* Exchange, your submission should describe the overall thesis, structure, and main arguments of your piece, as well as the anticipated thesis, main arguments, and author(s) or potential author(s) of your piece's counterpart. In addition, your proposal should describe the nature of the Exchange's contribution to its area of legal scholarship.

Font, Spacing, and Format

Please use double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font for the main text of your submission and single-spaced, 10-point Times New Roman font for the footnotes. The submission should use one-inch margins on all sides and include page numbers in the bottom right corner of the page.

Anonymized Review

All submissions of draft Essays are reviewed in a fully anonymized form. Deliberations and decisions for each Essay take place without knowledge of the author's name, prior publications, or pending publication offers. **We therefore ask that you remove all identifying information (including your name, institutional affiliation, and acknowledgments) from the manuscript text, the headers and footnotes, and the file name.** To remove document metadata in Microsoft Word, navigate to the "Info" option under the "File" menu, run "Inspect Document," then click "Remove All" next to "Document Properties and Personal Information." If your name appears anywhere in the file, we will be unable to consider your submission.

Submissions of Responses, Collection pieces, and Exchange proposals will not receive anonymized review.

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Research and Writing

Beginning in Volume 136, the *Journal* will institute a disclosure requirement for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the research and drafting of a piece. Such disclosure should consist of a brief statement on AI usage, which may include:

- How AI was used in research, if at all;
- How AI was used in drafting and/or editing, if at all; and
- Which AI tools were used.

AI usage will not have a *per se* negative impact on the consideration of your piece. Regardless of which tools were used, we consider the author(s) fully responsible for their piece's content, and authors must confirm the veracity of their sources. Just as fabricated or inaccurate sources reflect negatively on a piece and your scholarship under the *Journal's* attribution policy, hallucinated sources will strongly impact our Committees' evaluation of your piece. We reserve the right to decline to publish any piece with sources that cannot be verified.

Please email us at submissions@yalelawjournal.org with any questions if you encounter problems using our online submission system.

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