The Yale Law Journal

VOLUME 136 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The *Yale Law Journal* invites the submission of unsolicited Articles, Essays, Book Reviews, and *Yale Law Journal Forum* Essays and Responses via our online submission system. The submission system allows authors to track the progress of pieces. We do not accept pieces through external services like Scholastica. 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 apply the same standards to each piece that we receive using an extensive review process, which may take several weeks. In the past, some authors have felt pressure to accept offers from other journals before we have been able to complete our review process. The best way to avoid this problem is to give the *Journal* adequate time to review your piece. **We strongly encourage you to submit your piece exclusively to us for at least ten days.** If you choose to submit to us on an exclusive basis, please check the "Exclusive Submission to the *Yale Law Journal*" box on the "Details" page of our online submission system. Once you check this box, you may indicate the date on which you will send your piece to other journals in the "Exclusive Until" field.

Expedite Requests

If you have received an offer of publication from another journal, please request expedited review of your submission through our online submission system. Include the decision deadline, the name of the journal that has extended you an offer, and any other information relevant to the expedited request. If you subsequently receive an additional publication offer, please email submissions@yalelawjournal.org. In the subject line of your email, include the title of your submission, the words "Additional Expedite Request," and the decision deadline. In the body of the email, please provide the name of the journal that has made you an offer. Please note that expedited review provides your piece no competitive advantage in our process. We will not depart from our rigorous review process for expedited pieces.

II.   FORMS OF UNSOLICITED SCHOLARSHIP

The *Journal* accepts submissions for Articles, Essays, Notes, Comments, and Book Reviews, as well as pieces for publication in the *YLJ Forum*.

Articles and Essays

The division between Articles and Essays is not rigid but helps our readers distinguish between longer, more systematic pieces and shorter, more exploratory ones. Articles devote substantial space to situating themselves within existing research, and they often frame their arguments as comprehensive analyses of a given subject. Essays are often narrower in scope than Articles, but their subject matter is still of general scholarly interest. Essays might experiment with style, tone, and voice. The ultimate goal of an Essay is to start a new and interesting scholarly conversation. As a result, Essays can offer more tentative conclusions than Articles.

Recent examples of successful Essays include Saule T. Omarova & Graham S. Steele, *Banking and Antitrust*, 133 YALE L.J. 1162 (2024); Gabriel S. Mendlow, *The Moral Ambiguity of Public Prosecution*, 130 YALE L.J. 1146 (2021); Monica C. Bell, *Police Reform and the Dismantling of Legal Estrangement*, 126 YALE L.J. 2054 (2017); and Sarah A. Seo, *The New Public*, 125 YALE L.J. 1616 (2016). You may submit your piece as either an Essay or an Article to help us more accurately assess your piece. However, our editors may consider your submission for both categories unless you request that we not do so.

Notes & Comments

Notes and Comments are student-written scholarship. They are not limited by topic, methodology, or approach. Like the distinction between Articles and Essays, the distinction between Notes and Comments is not rigid. Successful Notes tend to develop innovative and well-supported theses to advance the debate in a particular legal field. Successful Comments tend to offer novel ideas about discrete legal issues, often drawing on students' clinical or research experiences. For more information, see our guidelines for student submissions.

Book Reviews

The *Journal* also invites professors and practitioners to submit reviews of books that are forthcoming or that have been published within the past twenty-four months. In addition to reviewing the book, these pieces often use the book as a springboard for new lines of scholarly inquiry. For recent examples, see Annette Gordon-Reed, *Writing About the Past That Made Us: Scholars, Civic Culture, and the American Present and Future*, 131 YALE L.J. 948 (2022) (reviewing AKHIL REED AMAR, THE WORDS THAT MADE US: AMERICA'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONVERSATION, 1760-1840 (2021)); Angela Onwuachi-Willig & Anthony V. Alfieri, *(Re)Framing Race in Civil Rights Lawyering*, 130 YALE L.J. 2052 (2021) (reviewing HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR., STONY THE ROAD: RECONSTRUCTION, WHITE SUPREMACY, AND THE RISE OF JIM CROW (2019)); and Amul R. Thapar & Joe Masterman, *Fidelity and Construction*, 129 YALE L.J. 774 (2020) (reviewing LAWRENCE LESSIG, FIDELITY & CONSTRAINT: HOW THE SUPREME COURT HAS READ THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION (2019)).

We encourage the submission of both full drafts of book reviews and proposals. Book-review proposals should lay out the overall thesis, structure, and main arguments of the proposed piece, as well as the nature of the piece's contribution to legal scholarship.

YLJ **Forum**

The *YLJ Forum* seeks scholarship that is shorter, timelier, and more accessible to a general audience than pieces published in the print pages of the *Journal*. Students, faculty, and practitioners are welcome to submit work to *Forum* and should consult the separate *Forum* Submission Guidelines for additional guidance.

III.   SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Abstract

Please include a short abstract with your submission.

Anonymity

All submitted pieces are reviewed in a fully anonymized form. Deliberations and decisions for each piece take place without knowledge of the author's name, institutional affiliation, or prior publications. **We, therefore, ask that you remove all identifying information (including your name, institutional affiliation, and acknowledgments) from the draft 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.

Citations

We strive to publish scholarship that is rigorously researched and advances well-supported claims. To that end, please note that the *Journal* has two important requirements for elements of citations.

- The *Journal* **requires pincites for all citations**, unless (1) the citation is introduced by "*see generally*," or (2) the source is cited for its mere existence.
- The following signals **require explanatory parentheticals**: *see also*, *cf.*, *but cf.*, and *see generally*.

While acceptance will not be contingent on compliance with this policy at the time of submission, we expect authors to meet these requirements during the production process following acceptance.

Attribution

We endeavor to publish scholarship that properly attributes ideas and language to their original sources. For language that is taken verbatim from other sources, we require quotation marks and citations that conform to the *Bluebook* and the *Journal*'s citation requirements. For language that is paraphrased, we also require citations that conform to the *Bluebook* and the *Journal*'s requirements. These requirements apply regardless of whether the author is citing their own previously published work.

Length

We are committed to publishing work that is concise and readable. Our length guidelines are as follows:
- For Articles, we strongly encourage submissions of **fewer than 25,000 words, including footnotes** (roughly 50 *Journal* pages).
- For Essays, we strongly encourage submissions of **fewer than 15,000 words, including footnotes** (roughly 30 *Journal* pages).
- For Book Reviews, we strongly encourage submissions of **fewer than 10,000 words, including footnotes** (roughly 20 *Journal* pages).

For submissions that exceed these word counts, length will be a factor that weighs significantly against acceptance of the piece. For more information on our commitment to concise scholarship, please see a [joint statement](#) issued by the *Journal* and ten other leading law reviews.

YLS Student Authorship

We do not review Articles or Essays written by current J.D. or M.S.L. students at Yale Law School or by authors who were J.D. or M.S.L. students at Yale Law School at any time during Volume 136's submissions window. We encourage Yale Law School J.D. and M.S.L. students to submit their work as a Note, Comment, or *Forum* Essay.

IV.   ETHICAL RESEARCH PRACTICES AND DISCLOSURE FORM

The *Yale Law Journal* requires disclosure of conflicts of interest, underlying data, IRB approval, and AI usage. To comply with these requirements, please upload as a supplementary file on our [online submission system](#) a single document titled "[SUBMISSION TITLE]_DISCLOSURES." Please include your necessary disclosures in that single document. These disclosure requirements are discussed at greater length below.

Conflict of Interest

Authors submitting to the *Journal* must disclose all potential conflicts of interest. Authors must identify any organizations that provided funding for the research or writing of the manuscript, as well as any personal or familial financial interests that might be pertinent. Authors

must also disclose their involvement in any litigation that is referenced in or relevant to the Article, Essay, Book Review, or *YLJ Forum* piece. The *Journal*'s publication offers are contingent on an author's compliance with this policy. For more information, please see our [Conflict-of-Interest Policy](#).

Data

Authors submitting pieces that rely on quantitative data and analysis are expected to submit their datasets, replication code, and/or a README file with any supplemental information about how to reproduce their analysis. Although we are agnostic about the programming language used (e.g., R, Python, Stata, MATLAB), authors must submit any materials necessary to replicate their analysis. Note that poor documentation and/or nonreproducible code may delay our consideration of the piece. We reserve the right to refuse to publish any piece with nonreproducible results. For more information, please see our [Data-Retention Policy](#) and [Dataverse](#) Instructions. After complying with these policies and uploading the appropriate files to Dataverse, please include in your disclosure document uploaded to our submission system that you have made these disclosures on Dataverse. If you are seeking a data-disclosure waiver from *YLJ*, please explain why a waiver is appropriate in your disclosure form.

Institutional Review Board Approval

For any research involving human subjects, authors must disclose whether they obtained approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to commencing their research. If IRB approval was not obtained for research involving human subjects, authors must explain why in their disclosure document. We will presumptively reject pieces where such approval was necessary but not obtained, and we reserve the right to request the IRB documentation associated with a submitted piece.

Example IRB Statement:
- The research involving human subjects was approved by the [Name of Institution] IRB Protocol ID [insert protocol ID].

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.

<p align="center">⋆　　⋆　　⋆</p>