**University of Baltimore Law Review**

The *University of Baltimore* *Law Review* is the flagship journal for the University of Baltimore School of Law. *Law Review* membership reflects academic excellence and is widely respected in the national legal community. *Law Review* serves two important purposes. First, as an academic forum for legal scholarship, the journal is a valuable research tool for legal practitioners. Second, *Law Review* operates as a training ground for its members and provides them with the opportunity to hone their writing, research, editing, and management skills—the very skills that are prized in the job market. *Law Review* publishes three issues per year and will be publishing its fiftieth volume during the 2020-21 academic year. Our publications include works by professors, practitioners, judges, and members of our journal. *Law Review* also hosts symposiums during the academic year on current legal issues.

**Required GPA**: Waived due to shift to credit/no credit

**2020 Credit Requirement**: Candidates *must* earn credit in *all* spring semester courses

**Write-On Packet Weight**: Case Note (45%); Bluebooking Exercise (30%); GPA (25%)

**Commitment**: 4 semesters; 1 credit per semester

**Approximate Slots**: 30–40

**Requirements**: Scholarly Comment due in second semester (fulfills upper-level writing requirement for graduation; may result in publication); two “Issues to Watch” on current legal issues (those selected will be published on the *Law Review* website); bimonthly cite check assignments; proofreading assignments.

**Contact Info**:

Jonathan Lucido, Editor-in-Chief, jonathan.lucido@ubalt.edu

Aaron Sarro, Managing Editor, aaron.sarro@ubalt.edu

Victoria Devore, Executive Editor, victoria.devore@ubalt.edu

**University of Baltimore Law Forum**

Founded in 1970, the *University of Baltimore* *Law Forum* is also the oldest journal at the School of Law. The *Law Forum* provides a unique focus on Maryland's legal decisions and issues, providing members of the Maryland Bar, the Maryland Judiciary, Maryland Legislature, and law libraries throughout the country with a practical resource on advancements in Maryland law. The *Law Forum* enjoys the largest subscription rate among all law journals at the University of Baltimore School of Law; in particular, Maryland’s Judiciary subscribers find much appreciation and benefit from *Law Forum*’s work. The *Law Forum* publication contains scholarly articles written by judges, professors or esteemed legal practitioners. *Law Forum* publishes two issues annually and published its fiftieth volume this past Fall, 2019. Members of the *Law Forum* exemplify the University of Baltimore School of Law’s long-standing tradition of dedication to legal scholarship and the practice of law.

**Required 1L GPA**: Waived due to shift to credit/no credit

**2020 Credit Requirement:** Candidates *must* earn credit in *all* Spring semester courses

**Write-on Packet Weight**: Case Note (55%); Bluebooking Exercise (25%); GPA (20%)

**Commitment:** 4 semesters; 1 credit per semester

**Approximate Slots:** 20-30

**Requirements**: Scholarly Comment due in second semester (fulfills the upper-level writing requirement for graduation and may result in publication); two Recent Developments (Staff Editors complete one per semester); peer editing assignments; cite check assignments.

**Contact Info:**

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**Overview of the Consolidated Write-On Competition**

**I.** **What is a Case Note?**

For the write-on petition, you will write a “case note” on a recently decided Maryland case. Notes provide the legal community with an update on the law. Significant rulings made by the United States Supreme Court, appellate courts, or the highest court of a state are frequently covered. Practitioners, judges, and scholars frequently turn to notes for summaries of an opinion’s facts and analysis, as well as an objective critique of the court’s reasoning.

Both of the law school’s journals publish student-written comments and recent developments. Writing is an important function of membership to a journal. The note evaluates your analytical writing skills. In the past, petitioners have discovered that their case notes make excellent writing samples to share with potential employers.

The write-on case note is a maximum of 20 pages, with 8-10 pages written analysis and 6-10 pages of endnote citations. For you to be familiar with the content of a case note, there will be an example of a case note provided in the petition packet. You will not know the topic of the case note until you receive the petitioning packet.

**The highest scoring case note will be published by either the *Law Review* or *Law Forum*!**

**II.** **Editing Exercise**

In addition to the case note, you must complete an editing exercise. This exercise evaluates your ability to recognize grammatical, stylistic, and citation errors. You must complete one set of editing exercises. This assignment is similar to the citation exercises in ILS. The major difference is that you will be using the Bluebook rules governing Legal Journals found in the white pages. The exercise will be comprised of several questions that may have some grammatical errors. Your goal is to edit the citations using the correct Bluebook rules.

**III.** **Write-On Procedure**

The petition packet will be available to download on **May 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** from TWEN (“2020 Write-On Competition” page). However, you may, and are encouraged to, sign-up on the TWEN page at any time before then. All applicants are required to use the most recent edition of the Bluebook throughout write-on and as a member of either journal.

The petitioning process is a closed packet of research materials. This means you are limited to the materials contained in the packet itself, including the leading case and only the cases and references cited within the leading case. You may NOT cite to any other references. You will have ten days to complete your write-on petition.

You may, and should, petition for membership to both journals. Petitions are **DUE by May 25, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** (NO EXCEPTIONS) on the TWEN page. You will submit a Microsoft Word document of your case note as well as a Microsoft Word document of your editing exercise via the TWEN Dropbox (labeled “Upload Petition here” on the TWEN page). All students who submit a petition will then be notified of the results by mail or telephone once the grading process has been completed, which typically occurs in the middle of the summer. Students MUST follow the anonymous formatting and labeling requirements. Failure to do so will result in a reduction in points. **Remember, if you are a day student, this is your** **only chance to write-on! If you are an evening student, you can only submit a petition after the end of your first *or* second year, but not both! Therefore, it is crucial that you follow directions to the letter and give your best effort during write-on.**

**IV. Contact Information**

More information will be provided on the TWEN page and in the larger Write-On Packet when it is released. However, if you have any questions, **Tori Devore is your point of contact** regarding the Write-On Process until its conclusion. Please reach out to her with any questions.

Phone: (973) 714-9334 Email: victoria.devore@ubalt.edu

**V. Important Dates**

* May 14, 2020 Last Day of Exams
* **Friday, May 15, 2020 at 9 AM** **Write-On Packets Released**
* **Monday, May 25, 2020 at 11:59 PM** **Write-On Packets Due on TWEN**

**VI. 2Ls Reflect on Their Write-On Experience:**

"Although everyone is burnt out at the end of 1L year, I am so grateful that I wrote-on. Being on an entirely student-run journal has been an amazing experience, and I have met so many students that I might not have otherwise ever known!"

“If someone told me at the beginning of my 1L year that I would celebrate finishing my first year of law school by writing a 20-page paper, there’s not a chance I would have believed them! Although I was ready to celebrate surviving 1L and dive into Memorial Day celebrations, I knew that the write-on process would have long-lasting benefits. I dedicated my time to finishing my write-on submission before heading to the beach for Memorial Day weekend. After Memorial Day Weekend I came back with fresh eyes and was able to fine-tune my Case Note and Editing Exercise before submitting.”

“I wrote on because this was the only chance to do it. Two weeks dedicated to writing was worth being a part of something for the rest of my life. Even though it’s two more weeks of work, that’s the only work you have. Classes are over and exams are ended. The only responsibility was writing on.”

**The Journals encourage eligible 1L Day, 1L Evening, and 2L Evening students to participate in the write-on process! Best of luck on your finals and on the write-on competition!**