

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** University of Miami School of Law First-year and Second-year Students  
**From:** Law Journal Editors-in-Chief  
**Re:** Information & Dates Regarding Law Review Writing Competition  
**Date:** Spring 2017

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The University of Miami School of Law is home to five law reviews: *The University of Miami Business Law Review*, *The University of Miami Inter-American Law Review*, *The University of Miami International & Comparative Law Review*, *The University of Miami Race & Social Justice Law Review*, and *The University of Miami Law Review*.

Students who participate in law review are afforded the unique opportunity to research, write, and edit scholarly articles, student notes, and comments pertaining to areas of professional legal interest. Participation in law review is highly respected and valued by the legal community. However, it is also a serious time commitment. Students should recognize and understand this time commitment when considering the many extracurricular activities UM Law has to offer.

The *University of Miami Law Review* offers grade-on invitations for candidacy to all first-year students ranked within the top 8% of their class or section. Additionally, *University of Miami Law Review* selects candidates through a write-on process, based on their performance in the Law Review Writing Competition. The other four law reviews select candidates only through a write-on process (performance in the Law Review Writing Competition).

**Important dates for the Law Review Writing Competition are as follows:**

- University of Miami Law Review 2017 Symposium: Climate Wrongs and Human Rights (required for UMLR)
  - **Friday, February 10 & Saturday, February 11, Storer Auditorium**
  - Register for the symposium [here](#)
  - Read more information about the symposium [here](#)
- Law Review Writing Competition Information Sessions
  - **Monday, March 6, 12:30pm, Room F309 OR**
  - **Monday, March 20, 12:30pm, Room F309**
- “How to Write a Casenote” Workshops
  - **Tuesday, April 4, Room F309 OR**
  - **Monday, April 10, Room F309**
- Dates for Law Review Writing Competition:
  - Registration: **Wednesday, June 21 – Wednesday, June 28**
  - Competition: **Friday, June 30 – Friday, July 7**
  - Announcement of Winners: **Wednesday, July 12**

If you are interested in learning about the five law journals at UM, please plan to attend the **Law Review Information Session** where all details of the competitions will be discussed.

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### **Law Review Matching/Ranking Process**

The law reviews employ a preference/matching process for the writing competition. Each participant will select and rank the reviews to which he or she wishes to apply to during the online registration period. Students should only apply to the law reviews whose eligibility criteria they satisfy. Students can only receive an offer from one law review. If more than one law review is interested in offering candidacy to a student, that student will receive an offer from the highest ranked law review only.

We have provided a description of each of the law reviews below, including general eligibility requirements, contact information, and links to the reviews' respective websites. Law reviews are listed in alphabetical order.

#### ***The University of Miami Business Law Review (“UMBLR”)***

**Description:** The *University of Miami Business Law Review*, which was founded in 1990, operates on the cutting-edge of the legal community by publishing long and short form work on compelling business issues, such as intellectual property, tax, bankruptcy, commercial law, etc. UMBLR candidates and members will have the opportunity to develop important writing, Bluebooking, and editing skills, as well as network with distinguished practitioners and alumni. UMBLR publishes two issues per year and regularly posts “hot topic” business issues on its *Insight* blog.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Students interested in joining UMBLR must participate in the Law Review Writing Competition. UMBLR will consider competition casenotes from all interested first and second year students who have a minimum GPA of 3.0. All students offered candidacy are expected to participate in UMBLR's editorial process, write a casenote or comment of publishable quality, and write a blog post for the *Insight* blog. Prospective candidates are welcome to contact the Editor-in-Chief and ask any additional questions they may have.

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**Website:** <http://business-law-review.law.miami.edu/>

#### ***The University of Miami Inter-American Law Review (“IALR”)***

**Description:** The *University of Miami Inter-American Law Review* provides a forum in which major international and inter-American legal developments are discussed. IALR was founded in 1969 as an extension of Miami's position as the “gateway to the Americas,” and provides its members unparalleled networking opportunities in South Florida and in Latin America. With

over 800 alumni practicing around the world, IALR's reach is truly global. Members of IALR have opportunities to research, write, and edit scholarly articles and blog posts on a wide variety of topics involving the Americas. For multilingual students (particularly those with knowledge of Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Haitian-Creole), IALR offers these opportunities in foreign languages. IALR publishes two issues per year. In addition to publication, IALR hosts the annual "Lawyer of the Americas" banquet, which honors a member of the legal community who has demonstrated outstanding and exemplary legal service on a domestic and international scale. Past honorees include federal judges, ambassadors, and prominent legal practitioners.

**Eligibility Criteria:** First and second year students interested in IALR must participate in the Law Review Writing Competition to be considered for candidacy. IALR will consider competition casenotes from students with a minimum GPA of 3.0. All students offered candidacy are expected to participate in IALR's editorial process and will be required to write a casenote of publishable quality. Prospective candidates are welcome to stop by the IALR office in D335 to meet and ask us any additional questions they may have.

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**Website:** <http://law.miami.edu/IALR>

### ***The University of Miami International & Comparative Law Review ("ICLR")***

**Description:** Founded in 1991, the University of Miami *International & Comparative Law Review* is committed to writing, editing, and publishing articles on issues that shape international law and relations. Members of ICLR have the opportunity to research, write and edit scholarly articles and online posts on a wide variety of topics related to international and/or comparative law. Examples of these topics include, but are not limited to, issues involving the United Nations, human rights, treaties, drone strikes, international arbitration, and international and economic law. ICLR publishes two issues per year.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Students interested in ICLR must participate in the Law Review Writing Competition. ICLR will consider competition casenotes from all interested first and second year students who have a minimum GPA of 3.0. The ideal ICLR candidate has strong research, writing, and editing abilities and a background or strong interest in international topics. All students offered candidacy are expected to participate in ICLR's editorial process and will be required to write a casenote of publishable quality and write a blog post each semester.

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**Website & Blog:** <http://international-and-comparative-law-review.law.miami.edu>

### ***The University of Miami Race & Social Justice Law Review (“RSJLR”)***

**Description:** Founded in 2007, the *University of Miami Race & Social Justice Law Review* is committed to the promotion and publication of scholarly articles that address the legal, social, economic, and psychological issues that affect communities of color. The articles published by RSJLR are geared toward promoting scholarly dialogue regarding major issues affecting underrepresented groups, including, but not limited to the economics of discrimination, racial profiling, education, and healthcare. RSJLR publishes one issue per year.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Students interested in joining RSJLR must participate in the Law Review Writing Competition and must attend at least one law review sponsored symposium or panel. This year’s RSJLR panel is scheduled for March 3, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. and will focus on restorative justice and alternatives to zero tolerance policies in public schools. RSJLR will consider competition case notes from all interested first and second year students who have a minimum GPA of 3.0. The ideal RSJLR candidate has a background or interest in race and/or social justice, and strong research, writing, and editing abilities. The ideal candidate should also be excited to interact with others who are interested in race and/or social justice, as well as to interact with faculty and other prominent scholars in the field. However, since RSJLR publishes on a wide variety of topics, a background in race and/or social justice is not required. All students offered candidacy are expected to participate in RSJLR’s editorial process and will be required to write a casenote of publishable quality.

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**Website:** <http://race-and-social-justice-review.law.miami.edu>

### ***University of Miami Law Review (“UMLR”)***

**Description:** Founded in 1947, the *University of Miami Law Review* is a quarterly legal journal committed to publishing articles written by legal scholars, practitioners, and *University of Miami Law Review* members. Composed of four separate issues published in the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer, the *University of Miami Law Review* publishes one volume per year. The second issue is comprised of scholarly articles based on the previous year’s *University of Miami Law Review* Symposium, which is held annually in early spring. The fourth issue consists of scholarly work related to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Throughout the year, members and candidates work together to edit the articles that will be published in the *University of Miami Law Review*. With the privilege of candidacy comes an extraordinary responsibility. Candidates will spend an exceptional amount of time and work earning membership on the *University of Miami Law Review*. In addition to editing articles for publication, candidates are required to submit a student note of publishable quality, write a short blog post on a legal topic of their choosing, and participate in the *University of Miami Law Review* Symposium.

**Eligibility Criteria:** The *University of Miami Law Review* offers grade-on candidacy to first-year students in the top 8% of their class or section. First-year students in the top 33 1/3% of their class or section and second-year students in the top 33 1/3% of their class are eligible to participate in the Law Review Writing Competition. **UMLR requires students competing for candidacy in the Law Review Writing Competition to attend the Law Review Writing Competition Information Session and at least one full day of the UMLR symposium on February 10 & 11, 2017.**

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**Website:** <http://lawreview.law.miami.edu/>

Exceptions to the Law Review Writing Competition.

Historically, we receive a number of requests regarding waivers of the requirement to participate in the Law Review Writing Competition. Under no circumstances will UMLR waive the Law Review Writing Competition. However, our other law reviews will under certain circumstances, set forth below, permit a student either to participate in the writing competition later in the summer or at the very beginning of the Fall semester (exact dates to be announced), OR to submit a paper of publishable quality.

1. Returning Miami Law students who successfully register to participate in the competition by the registration deadline, but experience a medical or family emergency between the time that competition registration closes and the competition begins that prevents him/her from participating in the competition. Students seeking an exception under this condition must receive written approval from the Dean of Students Janet Stearns and from the relevant law review executive board.
2. Incoming transfer students who are admitted to Miami Law *after* the date that registration for the regularly scheduled summer writing competition closes.

No student will be permitted to join a law review after the law reviews conduct their annual new law review member orientation, which generally occurs within the first two weeks of classes for the Fall semester.

	University of Miami Law Review	University of Miami Business Law Review	InterAmerican Law Review	International & Comparative Law Review	Race & Social Justice Law Review
Summer Writing Competition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Secondary Writing Competition			✓	✓	✓
Submission of Publishable Paper		✓			