MEMORANDUM

To: University of Miami School of Law First-year and Second-year Students
From: Law Review Editors-in-Chief & Editors-in-Chief Elect
Re: Information & Dates Regarding Law Review Writing Competition
Date: Spring 2019

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

Students who earn candidacy to and participate in a law review are afforded the unique opportunity to research, write, and edit scholarly articles, as well as student notes and comments pertaining to areas of professional legal interest. Participation on a 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 rising second-year students ranked within the top 8% of their 1L class or section. Additionally, the 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 based on their performance in the Law Review Writing Competition.

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

➢ University of Miami Law Review 2019 Symposium: “Sin Límites: Law & Business at the Gateway to the Americas.” (attending at least one day of the Symposium is required to be eligible for UMLR candidacy)
  o Friday, February 8 & Saturday, February 9, Shalala Center.
  o Register for the Symposium here.
  o Read more information about the Symposium here.

➢ Law Review Writing Competition Information Sessions (Mandatory to attend one)
  o Wednesday, March 20, 2019: 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. in E352.
  o Tuesday, March 26, 2019: 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. in E352.

➢ “How to Write a Casenote” Workshops (Attendance highly recommended)
  o Monday, April 8, 2019: 12:30 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. in F309.
  o Thursday, April 11, 2019: 12:30 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. in F309.

➢ Dates for the Law Review Writing Competition (subject to change):
  o Registration:
    o Start: Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 12:00 p.m. (EST)
    o End: Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 5:00 p.m. (EST).
Competition:
  - Start: Friday, June 28, 2019, 10:00 a.m. (EST)
  - End: Friday, July 5, 2019, 5:30 p.m. (EST).

Announcement of Selected Students: Thursday, July 11, 2019.

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 during the online registration period. Students should only apply to the law review(s) 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 only receive an offer from the highest ranked law review.

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.

Honor Code: Collaboration Rules

Students who participate in the Law Review Writing Competition must abide by the Honor Code and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action if any violations are discovered. If you have any questions or concerns about the Law Review Writing Competition before the Competition begins, you may talk to any member of any of the law reviews and other students to ask questions. This includes during the Registration period. However, under no circumstances are you to ask or know about the topic of the Competition before the Competition begins.

Once the Registration period is over and the Competition begins, you must not speak to any member of the law reviews regarding any aspect of the Competition or seek help, guidance, or advice from any member of the law reviews or any other person. Additionally, you cannot collaborate, speak with, or seek guidance from other students, friends, partners, family members, or any other person regarding any aspect of the Competition during the duration of the Competition.

You must write your own casenote. You must not read, copy, or review another student’s casenote (whether digital or hardcopy), or have another student read, copy, or review your casenote. These rules cover not only the substance of your written work, but also the organizational structure, grammar, punctuation, style, citations, and other aspects of your writings.

Honor Code: Inappropriate Use of Others’ Work

You must follow the Honor Code and the Law Review Writing Competition Packet, which you will receive later, in completing your casenote. Refer to the Honor Code and the Packet for the consequences of using others’ work inappropriately or failing to attribute ideas properly.
The University of Miami Business Law Review ("UMBLR")

Description: The University of Miami Business Law Review, 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, holds an online symposium, 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 rising 2L and rising 3L students. Rising 2L students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or be ranked in the top 50% of their class. Rising 3L students must have a minimum GPA of 3.2 or be ranked in the top 50% of their class. 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.

Contact:
- Editor-in-Chief: Andrew Miller, a.miller44@law.miami.edu

Website: http://business-law-review.law.miami.edu/

The University of Miami Inter-American Law Review ("IALR")

Description: With over 800 alumni practicing around the world, the University of Miami Inter-American Law Review’s reach is truly global, providing its members with exceptional networking opportunities. Founded in 1969, IALR serves as a forum for major international and inter-American legal developments. As such, IALR members can write their article and blog post on any international or inter-American topic that piques their interest. For multilingual students, IALR allows members to write their article and blog in foreign languages. IALR publishes two issues per year and hosts the annual “Lawyer of the Americas” banquet. The Lawyer of the Americas is an award given to a member of the legal community who demonstrates exemplary legal service. Past honorees include federal judges, ambassadors, and prominent legal practitioners.

Eligibility Criteria: Students interested in joining IALR must participate in the Law Review Writing Competition. IALR considers competition casenotes from all interested rising 2L and rising 3L students. Rising 2L students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or be ranked in the top 50% of the class. Rising 3L students must have a minimum GPA of 3.2 or be ranked in the top 50% of the class. All students offered candidacy are expected to participate in IALR’s editorial process, write a blog post, and author an article 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.
Contact:
- Editor-in-Chief: Benjami Mitrani, b.mitrani@law.miami.edu

Website: https://inter-american-law-review.law.miami.edu/about/

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 joining ICLR must participate in the Law Review Writing Competition. ICLR will consider competition casenotes from all interested rising 2L and rising 3L students. Rising 2L students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or be ranked in the top 50% of their class. Rising 3L students must have a minimum GPA of 3.2 or be ranked in the top 50% of their class. 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.

Contact:
- Editor-in-Chief: Maia Dombey, mayidombey@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: 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 interested in joining RSJLR must participate in the Law Review Writing Competition. RSJLR will consider competition case notes from all interested rising 2L and 3L students. Rising 2L students must have a minimum GPA of 2.9* or be ranked in the top 60% of their class. Rising 3L students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or be ranked in the top 60% of their class. All students offered candidacy are expected to participate in RSJLR’s editorial process and will be required to write a casenote of publishable quality.

* RSJLR will read casenotes for any 2L students who register for and participate in the summer writing competition who have a GPA of 2.9 or above, but lower than a 3.0 (in other words a 2.90-2.99 GPA) if these students submit a 750-word statement of interest detailing their passion for race and social justice issues, as well as the role that legal scholars may play in addressing these issues. Students must submit this statement at the same time that they register for the writing competition. 3L students who do not meet the criteria listed above will not be permitted to submit a casenote to RSJLR.

Contact:
  • Editor-in-Chief: Daniela Pessoa-Valdes, dvaldes12@law.miami.edu

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

University of Miami Law Review (“UMLR”)

Description: Founded in 1947, UMLR is Miami Law’s flagship law review. UMLR is a quarterly legal journal that publishes articles related to all areas of legal scholarship written by professors, judges, practitioners, and UMLR members. The second issue consists of scholarly articles based on the subject of the previous year's Symposium, which is held annually in early spring. The fourth issue consists of scholarly work addressing the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals (fittingly named the Eleventh Circuit Issue) and is the only such issue in the nation. These attributes have helped UMLR achieve the distinction of the longest continuously running student legal publication in Florida.

Throughout the year, members and candidates work together to edit the articles that will be published. The privilege of candidacy comes with an extraordinary responsibility and candidates should expect to spend a large amount of time fulfilling their candidacy requirements. In addition to editing articles for publication, candidates are required to submit a student note or comment of publishable quality, write a short blog post on a current legal issue of their choosing, and participate in the University of Miami Law Review Symposium. Candidates and members of UMLR can also expect to network with highly successful and accomplished alumni, improve their research and writing skills, and make lifelong friends.
Eligibility Criteria: The University of Miami Law Review offers grade-on candidacy to rising 2L students ranked in the top 8% of their 1L class or section. Rising 2L students in the top 33 1/3% of their 1L class or section and rising 3L students in the top 33 1/3% of their 2L 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 8 & 9, 2019.

Contacts:
- Editor-in-Chief: Hannah Gordon, umlr.eic@gmail.com
- Director, Programs: Farah Barquero, p: 305/284-2464; e: fbarquero@law.miami.edu

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 the GPA requirements set forth by each law review be waived. UMLR and UMBLR, under no circumstances, will 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).

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.