

MEMORANDUM

To: University of Miami School of Law First-year and Second-year Students
From: Law Review Editors-in-Chief
Re: Information & Dates Regarding Law Review Writing Competition
Date: April 9, 2020

This Memorandum serves to update the UM Law community about our policies on law review eligibility in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our primary goal is that all members of our UM Law community stay safe and healthy. Following the recent faculty announcement regarding Spring 2020 evaluations, each of the law reviews' boards convened to discuss membership eligibility requirements for the 2020–21 law review candidate class and arrived at the most equitable paths to membership on each law review considering the circumstances. We are committed to continue the tradition and host the Law Review Writing Competition this summer, following which we will welcome new candidates to each of the five law reviews. Further, we still believe that the anonymously graded Writing Competition is the fairest path to selecting new candidates (aside from those who grade-on to the *University of Miami Law Review*). We have decided to extend the competition dates to give competitors additional time to prepare quality submissions. The 2020 Law Review Writing Competition will last a total of ten days, rather than the traditional seven days of past years. Further, we have decided that eligibility to participate will be determined by grades for 1L and 2L students at the conclusion of the Fall 2019 semester. Administrative issues and steps, such as the availability of the Writing Competition materials packet and registration procedures, will be announced in June. Please review this Memorandum for the candidacy requirements particular to each law review and other relevant details related to the Writing Competition. All of this will be discussed in the Law Review Writing Competition Information Session, which will be held on Monday, April 20, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. While attendance at the Information Session is not mandatory, it is *highly* recommended. The Information Session will be recorded for those unable to attend.

General Overview:

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.

Due to the Spring 2020 grading scheme, the *University of Miami Law Review* will be offering grade-on invitations for candidacy to all rising second-year students ranked within the top 6% of

their 1L class or section. Additional information regarding this policy change can be found below. Additionally, the *University of Miami Law Review* selects rising second-year and third-year students as write-on candidates 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:

- Law Review Writing Competition Information Session (**Monday, April 20, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom**)
 - The law reviews will host this session live via Zoom, and the session will be recorded and made available on the competition webpage:
<https://lawreview.law.miami.edu/writing-competition/>
- “How to Write a Casenote” Workshop
 - **Mandatory attendance for UMLR write-on eligibility**
 - Summer 2020, date forthcoming.
 - Conducted live via Zoom.
- Dates for the Law Review Writing Competition (subject to change):
 - Registration:
 - **Start: Monday, June 22, 2020, 12:00 p.m. (EST)**
 - **End: Monday, June 29, 2020, 5:00 p.m. (EST)**
 - Competition:
 - **Start: Thursday, July 2, 2020, 10:00 a.m. (EST)**
 - **End: Sunday, July 12, 2020, 5:00 p.m. (EST)**
 - Announcement of Selected Students: **Tuesday, July 28, 2020**

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 law review that student ranked the highest.

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 any of the law reviews regarding any aspect of the Competition or seek help, guidance, or advice from any member of any law review 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:* Brittany Pushkin, blp26@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:* Alex Duffant, amd377@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*: Nicholas Beekhuizen, nab156@law.miami.edu

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 two issues 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-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*: Sydney Smith, sns137@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 the longest continuously running student legal publication in Florida with alumni who work in major law firms, head top NGOs, and have attained prestigious government positions across the country.

UMLR publishes issues quarterly, with articles from all areas of legal scholarship including, but not limited to, business law, criminal law, international law, and immigration law. This review is subject-matter neutral and focuses solely on publishing high-quality, cutting-edge scholarship written by law professors, judges, practitioners, and UMLR members.

However, UMLR is more than a legal journal. Every spring, UMLR hosts a symposium on an important legal topic and invites experts from around the country to participate. Past speakers have included Supreme Court justices, managing partners from top law firms, and some of the foremost legal experts from around the country. UMLR is an organization committed to raising the bar for legal scholarship related to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Each year, UMLR’s summer issue consists entirely of scholarly work addressing the Eleventh Circuit (fittingly named the Eleventh Circuit Issue)—the only such issue in the nation.

Candidacy Benefits and Requirements: Throughout the year, members and candidates work together to edit each issue and prepare its articles for publication. Although challenging, these editing cycles will vastly improve candidates’ research, editing, and writing skills, making them highly competitive in summer recruiting. Candidates and members will, furthermore, have the opportunity to network with highly successful and accomplished alumni working in every major area of law. Most importantly, Candidates will develop lifelong relationships with each other, members, and faculty while contributing to the success and legacy of UMLR.

The privileges of candidacy come with extraordinary responsibility, and candidates should expect to spend a great deal 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 on a topic of their choosing, write a short blog post on a current legal issue, and participate in the University of Miami Law Review Symposium.

Eligibility Criteria: UMLR offers grade-on candidacy to rising 2L students ranked in the **top 6%** of their 1L class or section based on Fall 2019 semester grades. Under normal circumstances, the top 8% of the 2020 1L class would have been eligible to grade-on based on the 1L class size. The circumstances in which we find ourselves, however, are anything but normal. Accordingly, UMLR will implement a single-semester “crisis” policy, which aims to allow UMLR to extend more invitations to eligible students who compete in the Law Review Writing Competition and select UMLR as their first choice. Rising 2L students eligible for grade-on candidacy must not receive an “Unsatisfactory” or equivalent in any course in which he or she is registered in the Spring 2020 semester to be eligible to grade-on.

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 that students competing for candidacy in the Law Review Writing Competition not receive an “Unsatisfactory” or equivalent in any course in which he or she is registered in the Spring 2020 semester, certify they have attended the Law Review “How to Write a Casenote” Workshop, and have attended at least one full day of the 2020 UMLR symposium on February 7 & 8, 2020.

Symposium Requirement: Due to COVID-19, if you were previously unable to attend the 2020 UMLR Symposium **and** previously made Farah Barquero aware of your absence, you will be permitted to compete in the 2020 Law Review Writing Competition.

“How to Write a Casenote” Workshop Requirement: UMLR will host a mandatory workshop during the summer (date TBD) to help competitors produce the best quality casenote. The workshop will cover a wide range of topics from formatting to creativity and will include a panel of candidates who were write-on candidates to UMLR.

These are trying times for all, and we hope the extended deadline and additional openings for write-on candidates will help reduce the anxieties for every student who competes in the Law Review Writing Competition. Although we face unprecedented times and many, many individual challenges, UMLR recognizes the policy decisions we have decided upon will not resolve every issue. If you find yourself in a particularly disadvantaged position, please reach out as soon as possible so we can best address your situation. **We very much look forward to reading your notes.**

Contacts:

- *Editor-in-Chief:* Jose Espinosa, jespinosa@law.miami.edu
- *Director, Programs:* Farah Barquero, 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 will 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 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.