

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW **2024 LAW REVIEW WRITING COMPETITION**

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 membership to and participate in a law review are afforded the unique opportunity to research, write, and edit scholarly articles and student notes and comments pertaining to areas of professional legal interest. Participation on a law review is an academic honor that 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. *Students who withdraw from a law review or fail to fulfill their obligations to the law review have a significant issue of professionalism that may be reported to future employers, including summer associate employers, or to the Bar.*

The University of Miami School of Law's law reviews select new members through a joint Law Review Writing Competition. This competition is open to all first year and second year students. All relevant materials needed to participate in the Law Review Writing Competition will be in the Competition Packet provided in May. Each participant will submit a case note along with a preference form ranking their interests in the five law reviews. Each law review uses its own selection and grading criteria to select members, as detailed in each Law Review's respective section in this memorandum. Case notes will anonymously be graded by multiple members of each law reviews editorial board.

This memorandum provides prospective law review members with important information regarding each of UM Law's law reviews and the Law Review Writing Competition. Please read the information carefully and retain your copy of this memorandum throughout the Law Review Writing Competition.

WRITING COMPETITION PERIOD

- **Registration:**
 - Start: Monday, April 15, 2024, 8:00 a.m. (EST)
 - End: Friday, April 19, 2024, 5:00 p.m. (EST)
- **Competition:**
 - Start: Thursday, May 23, 2024, 12:00 p.m. (EST)
 - End: Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 5:00 p.m. (EST)
- **Announcement of Selected Students: Monday, June 17, 2024**

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

First-year Students

The Writing Competition is open to all University of Miami School of Law students who completed their first year of law school in the academic year 2023–24. The Writing Competition begins **before** the release of grades. Therefore, if after the spring grades are released, students do not meet the GPA requirement, they will automatically be removed from the competition and consideration for membership on a law review. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or be ranked in the top 50% of their class at the end of the spring semester for all the law reviews except the *University of Miami Law Review*.

The *University of Miami Law Review* will offer membership to students only in two ways, which are listed below:

1. Students ranked in the **top 5%** of their 1L class will automatically receive an invitation. Students will be notified **after** the release of spring grades and ranks of their selection on UMLR, and after the end of the writing competition.
2. Students with a minimum GPA of 3.53 will be considered in the Law Review Writing Competition.

Important note on eligibility for the University of Miami Law Review: It is **strongly** recommended that students who believe they will rank within the top 5% of their class complete the Writing Competition. Students who rank in the top 5% will automatically receive an invitation due to their ranking. However, if a student does not complete the Writing Competition, and does not later “grade-on,” under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** will they be allowed to retroactively participate in the 2024 writing competition.

Second-year Students

The Writing Competition is open to all University of Miami School of Law students who completed their second year of law school in the academic year 2023–24. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.2 or be ranked in the top 50% of their class at the end of the spring semester for all the law reviews except the *University of Miami Law Review*. After the spring grades are released, if students do not meet the GPA requirement, they will automatically be removed from the competition and consideration for membership on a law review.

For the *University of Miami Law Review*, second-year students must have a minimum GPA of 3.65 at the end of the spring semester.

INTELLECTUAL LIFE EVENTS

Students are encouraged to attend any listed intellectual life events hosted by the law reviews for a firsthand exploration of pressing legal issues. Immerse yourself in dynamic discussions, connect with esteemed scholars, and discover how law reviews actively contribute to these topics through scholarly writing. Don't miss this invaluable opportunity to deepen your understanding and engage with the vibrant intellectual community at our law school. Students who attend any of these events for a **total of 3 hours** will receive a 24-hour extension to turn in their case notes.

If you attend any listed intellectual life events for **3 hours**, your case note will be due on **Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 5:00 p.m. (EST)**.

For students partaking in the RSJLR's Alternative Admissions Process, you will receive an **additional 3 days** to complete your submission packet (more information below in the RSJLR section).

- *University of Miami Law Review* Symposium: *Reflections on the War on Drugs*
- **February 9, 2024**
- Shalala Student Center, University of Miami

- *University of Miami Business Law Review* Fireside Chat: *South Florida's Rapid Development and the Legal Landscape*
- **March 6, 2024**
- Alma Jennings Foundation Student Lounge, Law School

- *University of Miami Race & Social Justice Law Review* Lunch Panel Series:
- **March 5:** Racial Disparities in the criminal justice system
- **March 7:** The Criminalization of Trans/Queer Youth
- **March 20:** Gideon at 61: The State of Public Defense in the 21st Century.
- E352, Law School

- *University of Miami International & Comparative Law Review* Symposium: *Labor and Employment in the International Entertainment Field*
- **April 12, 2024**
- E352, Law School

MANDATORY COMPETITION MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

To participate in the Writing Competition, you must attend one information session and one "How to Write a Case Note" Workshop. There will be two sessions for each. In-person attendance is required, and these meetings will not be recorded under any circumstances.

- Information Sessions – **Mandatory to attend one**
 - **Wednesday, February 28, 2024:** 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. in E352
 - OR*
 - **Tuesday, March 26, 2024:** 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. in E352

- "How to Write a Case Note" Workshops – **Mandatory to attend one**
 - **Wednesday, April 10, 2024:** 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. in E352
 - OR*
 - **Tuesday, April 16, 2024:** 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. in E352

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 do not need to rank all reviews. 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 membership to a student, that student will only receive an offer from the law review that the student ranked the highest.

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

LAW REVIEW COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

If you have any questions regarding this memo or the competition, please get in touch with the Director of Law Reviews, Farah Barquero, at fbarquero@law.miami.edu.

OVERVIEW OF THE LAW REVIEWS

***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, technology 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 three issues per year, hosts a series of panels with experts from cutting-edge areas of business law, 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 case notes 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 membership are expected to participate in UMBLR's editorial process, write a case note or comment of publishable quality, and write a blog post for the *Insight* blog. Prospective members are welcome to contact the Editor-in-Chief and ask any additional questions they may have.

Contact:

- *Editor-in-Chief:* Thomas Webb, tcwebb@law.miami.edu
- *Editor-in-Chief Elect:* Roselyn Castillo, roselyn.castillo@law.miami.edu
- *Senior Writing Editor Elect:* Cristina de Castro, cid46@law.miami.edu

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

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

Description: With over 1,000 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 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 case notes 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 membership are expected to participate in IALR’s editorial process, write a blog post, and author a case note of publishable quality. Prospective candidates are welcome to stop by the IALR office in D335 or send any of the executive board an email to meet and ask us any additional questions they may have.

Contact:

- *Editor-in-Chief:* Erick Wilson, ejw72@law.miami.edu
- *Editor-in-Chief Elect:* Monserrat Garcia, mng76@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* publishes articles that cover a myriad of global topics and opines on the legal issues of countries from all corners of the world. 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. Members may write about any legal issue they are interested in, as virtually any topic can fit into the international and comparative lens. Examples of previous issues featured in the ICLR include sports and entertainment law, space law, the United Nations, human rights, treaties, drone strikes, international arbitration, and international and economic law. ICLR publishes two issues per year, hosts academic events and symposia, and posts weekly online articles to its website.

Eligibility Criteria: Students interested in joining ICLR must participate in the Law Review Writing Competition. ICLR will consider competition case notes 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 membership are

expected to participate in ICLR's editorial process and will be required to write a case note of publishable quality and write a blog post each semester.

Contact:

- *Editor-in-Chief:* Marialejandra Portal, marialejandra.portal@law.miami.edu
- *Editor-in-Chief Elect:* Jaelin Figueroa, jnf83@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* (formerly known as the *Black 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, both within our local community and nationally. The articles published by RSJLR are geared toward promoting scholarly dialogue regarding major issues affecting underrepresented and marginalized groups, including, but not limited to the economics of discrimination, racial profiling, education, and healthcare. RSJLR publishes two issues per year and hosts an annual symposium on timely issues related to our mission.

Eligibility Criteria: Students interested in joining RSJLR must participate in either the Law Review Writing Competition or RSJLR's *Alternative Admission Process*. RSJLR will consider Competition case notes from all interested rising 2L and 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 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 membership are expected to participate in RSJLR's editorial process and will be required to write a blog post, and author a case note of publishable quality.

The *Alternative Admissions Process* allows students the opportunity to seek membership in **only** RSJLR by submitting a packet consisting of the first ten pages of the student note they would like to write if accepted as a Junior Editor, a passion statement detailing why the student would like to join RSJLR and/or why the topic they have chosen is important to them, an outline of their prospective student note, and a conflicts check on their selected topic. Further information regarding the Alternative Admissions Process will be offered in the spring (*separate from information regarding the Writing Competition, along with an information session to provide students with a more in-depth look at the process*).

Contact:

- *Editor-in-Chief:* Timothy Mondloch, tjm193@law.miami.edu
- *Editor-in-Chief Elect:* Kennedy Byrd, kennedybyrd@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.

Membership Benefits and Requirements: Throughout the year, 3L and 2L members work together to edit each issue and prepare its articles for publication. Although challenging, these editing cycles will vastly improve members’ research, editing, and writing skills, making them highly competitive in summer recruiting. Members will, furthermore, have the opportunity to network with highly successful and accomplished alumni working in every major area of law. Most importantly, members will develop lifelong relationships with each other, alumni, and faculty while contributing to UMLR’s continued success and legacy.

The privileges of membership come with extraordinary responsibility, and members should expect to spend a great deal of time fulfilling their membership requirements. In addition to editing articles for publication, members 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: The *University of Miami Law Review* offers grade-on membership to rising 2L students ranked in the **top 5%** of their 1L class. Rising 2L students who have a 3.53 GPA and rising 3L students who have a 3.65 GPA after the Spring semester are eligible to participate in the Law Review Writing Competition.

As noted above, membership on the *University of Miami Law Review* is a privilege, it will also provide you with countless opportunities throughout your career through both the skills you gain on the Law Review and our extensive alumni network. With the great prestige that accompanies membership on UMLR, there are also many responsibilities and requirements. As a Junior Staff

Editor on UMLR, you are expected to complete three editing cycles of articles for the Law Review throughout the school year. These editing cycles are 2 weeks long each and are a significant amount of work. Junior Staff editors must also write an article of publishable quality. The article is 35–75 pages in length and is due by the beginning of the Spring 2025 semester. Junior Staff editors must also write a blog post and complete “admin hours” which consist of general tasks to help the Law Review. Completion of all of these requirements is necessary for continued membership on the *University of Miami Law Review*.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or comments. **We very much look forward to welcoming you to membership!**

Contacts:

- *Editor-in-Chief:* Grace Slicklen, UMLREIC@law.miami.edu
- *Editor-in-Chief Elect:* Julianne Rudkin, jlr324@law.miami.edu
- *Senior Writing Editor:* Corinne Milnamow, UMLRSeniorWritingEditor@law.miami.edu
- *Senior Writing Editor Elect:* Amanda Gonzalez, amg526@miami.edu

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

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & HONOR CODE

Our University of Miami School of Law places a very high value on academic integrity. Academic integrity is at the core of all of our five law reviews.

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 case note. You must not read, copy, or review another student’s case note (whether digital or hardcopy), or have another student read, copy, or review your case note. 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.

You must follow the Honor Code and the Law Review Writing Competition Packet, which you will receive later, in completing your case note. Refer to the Honor Code and the Packet for the

consequences of using others' work inappropriately or failing to attribute ideas properly.

WRITING COMPETITION WAIVERS

Historically, we receive a few 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.** Waivers in the form of extensions will only be granted to 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 concludes, and the competition begins that prevents him/her from participating in the competition. Students seeking a waiver under this condition must receive written approval from the Dean of Students, Janet Stearns, and the relevant law review executive board.