



March 24, 2011

Dear Southwestern Student:

The *Southwestern Law Review* (*Law Review*) and the *Southwestern Journal of International Law* (*Law Journal*) are pleased to announce the 2011 Write-On Competition. Membership in one of Southwestern's journals is a distinguished honor, and we hope that you will participate in this year's competition. This letter will inform you about the competition and each journal's selection criteria. Attached to this letter, you will also find a list of answers to frequently asked questions.

## A. The Write-On Competition

To be considered for *Law Review* or *Law Journal* membership, you **must** successfully complete the Write-On Competition. The 2011 competition will take place immediately following spring final exams. The competition will begin on **Monday, May 16, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** and end on **Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.** The Write-On Competition is open to all students who have completed at least the first-year day, second-year evening, second-year PLEAS programs, or the first-year SCALE program.

Each student must submit a short paper (maximum seven pages, double-spaced) in response to a closed-universe problem. No outside research is permitted and students may not consult outside sources, including other students. The Write-On problem will be available for download on **Monday, May 16, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** on the *Law Review* and *Law Journal* Write-On Competition TWEN page. Note: The problem will *only* be available for download on the *Law Review* and *Law Journal* Write-On Competition TWEN page. Detailed directions on how to add the TWEN page and download the packet are available in PDF format on Southwestern Law School's web site.

The deadline for submitting a Write-On Competition paper will be strictly enforced. **All papers must be submitted through the *Law Review* and *Law Journal* Write-On Competition TWEN page, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2011.** Under no circumstances will the deadline be extended. Neither the *Law Review* nor the *Law Journal* is responsible for any difficulties students may face in uploading their submission. Note: No hard copies of papers will be accepted.

## B. *Law Review* and *Law Journal* Selection

Each journal has its own selection criteria. *Law Review* and *Law Journal* membership selection will occur after the administration finalizes all spring grades and determines class rankings for the 2010-2011 academic year. The journals expect that this will occur by mid-July.

**1. *Law Review*:** *Law Review* will extend invitations to students who place within the top 10% of their class **and** who have successfully completed the Write-On Competition. Furthermore, *Law Review* may select additional students who demonstrate exceptional writing and analytical skills through the Write-On Competition and who are in the top 30% of their class, as calculated at the end of the spring

2011 semester. Note: All students selected as *Law Review* staff members must register for a required ungraded course component which is taught by members of the Law Review Executive Board during the fall 2011 semester.

**2. *Law Journal:*** *Law Journal* will select students who have demonstrated exceptional writing and analytical capabilities based on their performance in the Write-On Competition (50%) and their law school academic performance (cumulative GPA as calculated at the end of the spring 2011 semester) (50%). *Law Journal* extends membership invitations to students who are in good academic standing (GPA of 2.33 or above). Note: All students selected as *Law Journal* staff members are required to register for a two unit, graded seminar (*Law Journal Seminar*) which is taught by one or more members of the faculty during the fall 2011 semester.

We encourage you to participate in the *Law Review* and *Law Journal* Write-On Competition. As a staff member of either journal, you will develop important research, writing, and editing skills. These skills are an invaluable career asset that employers and colleagues value highly. Membership in either journal qualifies students to apply for Executive Board positions in the following year and gives you the necessary skills that make you attractive to a broader range of employers. Successful completion of a Note or Comment of publishable quality in *Law Review* will satisfy Southwestern's upper division writing requirement. Successful completion of the *Law Journal Seminar* will also satisfy Southwestern's upper division writing requirement. *Law Review* and *Law Journal* articles can be submitted for publication consideration in each journal. Further information about *Law Review* and *Law Journal* is available in the 2010-2011 *Southwestern Student Handbook* and Southwestern's web site.

We look forward to your participation in the Write-On Competition. If you have any questions about *Law Review*, please contact Justin Brossier at [jbrossier@swlaw.edu](mailto:jbrossier@swlaw.edu). Please direct your questions regarding *Law Journal* to Michael McLean at [mmclean@swlaw.edu](mailto:mmclean@swlaw.edu).

Sincerely,

Justin Brossier  
Managing Editor 2011-2012  
*Southwestern Law Review*

Michael McLean  
Managing Editor 2011-2012  
*Southwestern Journal of International Law*

**Southwestern Law School**  
***Law Review and Law Journal Write-On Competition***

**Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Can I become a member of *Law Review* or *Law Journal* without participating in the Write-On Competition?**

No. Only students who successfully complete the Write-On Competition are eligible for *Law Review* or *Law Journal* membership.

**2. How much time does the Write-On Competition take?**

You should plan to set aside three days from the Monday through Wednesday following the end of the 2011 (traditional) spring exam period. This year's competition will begin on **Monday, May 16, 2011** at **10:00 a.m.** and end on **Wednesday, May 18, 2011** at exactly **5:00 p.m.**

Your own work style and speed will determine how quickly you complete your Write-On Competition submission; however, it is wise to allot the entire time allowed. Summer employers should be sensitive to the competition's importance. Do not plan to start working during the summer until after **Wednesday, May 18, 2011**.

**3. Will I need to stay in Los Angeles to complete the Write-On Competition?**

No. Students may download the Write-On Competition problem from the *Law Review* and *Law Journal* Write-On Competition TWEN page. All papers must be submitted electronically through the *Law Review* and *Law Journal* Write-On Competition TWEN page **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2011**. Under no circumstances will the deadline be extended. Neither the *Law Review* nor the *Law Journal* is responsible for any difficulties students may face in uploading their submission.

**4. What will the Write-On Competition require me to do?**

The Write-On Competition requires you to write a short paper (no longer than seven, double-spaced pages) analyzing an issue posed in the competition packet. The competition packet will consist of excerpts of recent cases or journal articles, and related documents such as statutes and briefs. As in your LAWS course, you will need to synthesize the material in the competition packet and then provide a legal analysis of the issue presented.

The Write-On Competition is a "closed-universe" problem. The rules restrict students from using any materials other than: 1) the Write-On Competition packet, 2) a non-legal dictionary, 3) a legal dictionary, and 4) *The Bluebook*. Students may not consult outside sources or consult/talk with others. Outside research is prohibited.

**5. How will the Write-On Competition paper be graded?**

Each journal chooses its own method for grading the papers. Papers will be evaluated based on the student's writing, analytical, and Bluebooking skills.

## **6. Who may participate in the Write-On Competition?**

Students who have completed at least the first-year day, second-year evening, second-year PLEAS, or the first-year SCALE programs (see 2010-2011 *Southwestern Student Handbook*, pages 123-128). Any student wishing to be considered for either *Law Review* or *Law Journal* must participate.

## **7. How are members selected?**

**Law Review:** *Law Review* will extend invitations to students who place within the top 10% of their class **and** have successfully completed the Write-On Competition. Furthermore, *Law Review* may select additional students who demonstrate exceptional writing and analytical skills through the Write-On Competition and who are in the top 30% of their class, as calculated at the end of the spring 2011 semester. Note: All students selected as *Law Review* staff members must register for a required ungraded course component which is taught by members of the Law Review Executive Board during the fall 2011 semester.

**Law Journal:** *Law Journal* will select students who have demonstrated exceptional writing and analytical capabilities based on their performance in the Write-On Competition (50%) and their law school academic performance (cum GPA as calculated at the end of the spring 2011 semester) (50%). *Law Journal* extends membership invitations to students who are in good academic standing (GPA of 2.33 or above). Note: All students selected as *Law Journal* staff members are required to register for a two unit, graded seminar (*Law Journal Seminar*) which is taught by one or more members of the faculty during the fall 2011 semester.

## **8. Why should I participate in the Write-On Competition?**

Membership in Southwestern's academic journals is an important and distinguished honor. As a staff member of either journal, you will develop important research, writing, and editing skills. These skills are an invaluable career asset that employers and colleagues regard highly. Membership in either journal qualifies students to apply for Executive Board positions in the following year and gives you the necessary skills that make you attractive to a broader range of employers. Successful completion of a Note or Comment of publishable quality in *Law Review* will satisfy Southwestern's upper division writing requirement. Successful completion of the *Law Journal Seminar* will also satisfy Southwestern's upper division writing requirement. *Law Review* and *Law Journal* articles can be submitted for publication consideration in each journal. Further information about *Law Review* and *Law Journal* is available in the 2010-2011 *Southwestern Student Handbook* and Southwestern's web site.

## **9. Are there other things I should know?**

The Write-On Competition is governed by the Southwestern Student Honor Code (please see the 2010-2011 *Southwestern Student Handbook* pages 97-98). Participants must refrain from discussing the competition, using any outside materials, collaborating, or seeking assistance from any other person. Disciplinary action may be taken against violators of the rules.

If you have any questions about *Law Review*, please contact Justin Brossier at [jbrossier@swlaw.edu](mailto:jbrossier@swlaw.edu). Please direct your questions regarding *Law Journal* to Michael McLean at [mmclean@swlaw.edu](mailto:mmclean@swlaw.edu).