



THE GEORGETOWN LAW JOURNAL

Dear Rising Second-Year Students,

Congratulations on nearing the end of your first year! Though your 1L Spring may have taken an unforeseen turn, I am proud of each of you for almost completing the most challenging year of law school. After finishing exams, I hope that you take a moment to relax and recover before devoting your chosen three weeks to the Write On Competition. Write On may seem daunting, but it is certainly an intellectually stimulating exercise, and I encourage you to embrace this new and exciting challenge. I am confident that the experiences you will gain from journal participation—camaraderie, teamwork, and deep intellectual engagement—will be worth the work you will put in while completing the Write On process. Needless to say, I wholeheartedly encourage you to opt-in to apply to *The Georgetown Law Journal!*

The *Journal*, celebrating its 109th anniversary next year, is one of the oldest and most prestigious law reviews in the country. It is currently ranked the seventh law review nationwide. As a member of this highly regarded journal, you will work on editing—both substantively and technically—articles written by some of the most influential legal scholars in the world. Some of the pieces we publish will shape legal discourse for years to come.

One of the most exciting things about being a member of the *Journal* is our generalist approach to scholarship. *Journal* members have the unique opportunity to deepen their understanding on a wide-array of diverse legal subjects, from constitutional law to complex litigation; from business law to legal history; from tech law to civil rights, and beyond. Additionally, *Journal* staff will also contribute to our treatise: the *Annual Review of Criminal Procedure*, where members will become immersed in the current state of criminal law. Aside from the academic benefits of journal membership, the *Journal* makes fostering community one of its principle goals. As the largest journal on campus, members have the opportunity to meet students with differing personal and professional backgrounds, both through the course of their work and through organized social events. Members also have the opportunity to engage with *Journal* alumni.

Membership: Students **must opt-in** to the *Journal* to be considered for membership. Georgetown students earn membership in three ways:

- (1) 50% of our new members will be accepted solely based on their Write On scores. The Write On score will weight students' case comment score 60% and their Bluebook test 40%.
- (2) 20% of our new members will be accepted based on a formula that equally weighs Write On scores and grades.
- (3) 30% of our new members will be selected solely based on their Personal Diversity Statement, provided that they have reached a certain threshold score on their Write On Submission.
 - a. The Personal Diversity Statement is optional, but encouraged. The Statement should describe how your diverse background has shaped your approach to the legal profession. For example, it may offer reflections on how you have overcome adversity including, but not limited to, discrimination, linguistic barriers, or a personal or family history of educational or socioeconomic disadvantage. Finally, the statement should illustrate how any of these relevant

factors will contribute to the membership and/or scholarship of the *Journal*. The prompt is attached below.

Transfer students are selected solely based on their Write On score.

Scholarship: Each year, the *Journal* selects approximately twenty-five articles for publication from nearly three thousand submissions. This process offers an unparalleled opportunity to interact with—and critique—the work of the world’s most prominent legal scholars. The *Journal* also publishes approximately ten Georgetown Law students’ notes for publication. In recent years, we have extended our scholarly contributions into the online realm. Today, *GLJ Online* provides an expedited publication process for high-caliber scholarship that engages in time-sensitive legal debates and discussions. In addition to selecting and editing articles, *Journal* members write a scholarly note on any legal topic of their choice. *Journal* members may submit their work for publication in both the print *Journal* and *The Georgetown Law Journal Online*.

The Annual Review of Criminal Procedure: Each second-year member contributes to the *Annual Review of Criminal Procedure (ARCP)*, also known as the “practitioner’s bible” for the federal criminal bar. The *ARCP* resembles a hornbook, as it provides an overview of current criminal law. The *ARCP* is a highly visible legal publication that is widely used by judges, academics, practitioners, and pro se litigants. The *ARCP* also serves as a vehicle for social justice and public outreach—it is one of the greatest resources for prisoners and public interest organizations across the country. The *ARCP* helps create a more holistic *Journal* experience, allowing members to hone their legal research skills while contributing to an invaluable publication that has a concrete impact on the lives of individuals. The *ARCP* serves as the pro bono arm of *GLJ*, donating a significant number of *ARCP* copies to indigent prisoners.

Community: The *Journal* offers students a supportive and welcoming community, bringing together dynamic individuals from diverse backgrounds. During their time on the *Journal*, members form lasting personal and professional relationships that continue far beyond the initial two years of membership—our Annual Alumni Banquet brings together past and present *Journal* members from across the nation. All *Journal* members are encouraged to participate in our mentoring program, social activities, and professional networking events.

Leadership: The *Journal* offers numerous leadership opportunities, helping members develop marketable skills that will aid them throughout their legal careers. Upon the successful completion of their staff duties, all second-year members will be promoted to editorial positions. Members may lead committees, spearhead initiatives, or serve on the *Journal*’s Senior Board.

If you have any questions prior to the Competition I encourage you to reach out to me or any other member of the *Journal* and to visit our website at www.georgetownlawjournal.org. With the unquestionably stressful time brought on by COVID-19, I want each of you to feel supported throughout this process, from start to finish. Once the Write On Competition has begun, inquiries can be addressed to the Office of Journal Administration at lawwriteon@georgetown.edu. I hope that you will opt-in to the *Journal*—not only for the doors it will open throughout your legal career, but also for the skills you will develop, the first-class scholarship you will publish, and the friends and colleagues with whom you will work over the next two years. **Also, please be aware that if you accept an invitation to join *GLJ*, you will be required to attend our two Staff Orientation days on August 29th and September 5th.** I look forward to welcoming many of you into our community as staff members in the fall!

Sincerely,

Toni Deane (tad91@georgetown.edu)

Editor-in-Chief, Volume 109

Personal Diversity Statement Prompt

The Georgetown Law Journal deeply values diversity in both its membership and scholarship. During Write On, the *Journal* strongly encourages students to include a Personal Diversity Statement in their Write On submission. The *Journal* will extend 30% of membership offers in 2020 to students who submit outstanding Personal Diversity Statements and have reached a certain threshold score on their Write On submission. **As a reminder, students must opt-in to apply for the *Journal* to receive consideration.**

Your Personal Diversity Statement should explicitly identify and discuss how your identity, background, culture, life experiences, and perspectives would contribute to the diversity of the *Journal*. If applicable, you may also describe any adversity that you have overcome, including discrimination, micro-aggressions, linguistic barriers, or a personal or family history of educational or socioeconomic disadvantage. Most importantly, please illustrate how the factors you identify affect the way you think about the legal profession, law school, and legal ideology and the ways you can uniquely contribute to the work and community of the *Journal*.

For example, some past Personal Diversity Statements have discussed how an applicant's perspectives on legal scholarship and academia, or his or her decision to pursue a legal career, have been influenced by:

- Disability
- Gender Identity
- Race
- Socioeconomic Status
- Underrepresented Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Ethnicity

Personal Diversity Statements should be double-spaced and should not exceed 750 words. Please include your Write On packet number, but **not your name**, on your Personal Diversity Statement and upload it along with your case comment to *The Georgetown Law Journal* box on the Materials page of the Write On Competition website. If you have any questions about the Personal Diversity Statement, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Journal Administration at lawwriteon@georgetown.edu.