Anna Selden: We can go ahead and get started. For those of you who have laptops out if I can encourage you to please put them away. Fun fact, last year the Wi-Fi was out in Hart and student comprehension went way up. There you go. The event is going to be audio recorded, and we’re going to post a transcript, so if you didn’t get anything I said you will have a chance to review it. There will also be a Q & A after this short session, and once we’re done we’ll release you guys out to Wednesday Wind-Down. The editors for the journals and a few of their staff members are going to be out so you guys can ask some questions. And there’s beer and food which I know is the best way to get our students anywhere.

So without further ado, thank you very much. My name is Anna Selden. I’m the Director of the Office of Journal Administration. We’re the folks that run the Write On Competition every year. If and when you guys place on journal we’ll be working with you guys over the next two years.

There are 12 law journals here at Georgetown. We also have the Georgetown Law Technology Review. I will be placing a blurb that they’ve written for the purposes of this up on the website and I encourage you if you are interested in that Journal to please check out their website. They have a place where you can give them your e-mail address and they will give you information about their write on competition. It’s slightly different than ours and it will run after our Write On Competition is done in the summer. But again I’ll put that blurb on line so you guys will have all of that.
The Georgetown Law Technology Review focuses on the intersection between technology, policy, and the law. Not only does this focus mean that the GLTR is often working on subjects that are the cutting edge of the law, but it also means that the GLTR covers a wide-range of subjects, from privacy and cyber security to health law to robots and the rules of evidence. Our relationship with Georgetown’s Institute for Technology Law and Policy helps keep the journal involved in the newest trends in tech law. The GLTR also offers the chance both to be published and to be an Assistant Editor during your 2L year.

The GLTR runs its own write-on process, which happens after OJA’s write-on competition and is a little distinctive: it’s open to rising 2Ls and 3Ls and involves a different type of writing. Everyone is encouraged to participate in write-on—a technical background is absolutely not required.

If you would like more information about the GLTR, grab one of its members and ask! Or find the GLTR on the web at georgetownlawtechreview.org. Either way, be sure to get your email address onto the GLTR’s list so that they can push you updates about the write-on process. And be on the look-out for on information session and happy hour coming up in late April!

Another date for you guys to keep in mind: Wednesday, April 17th, 3:30 to 4:30 in McDonough 205 [session was originally scheduled for April 10, but has been rescheduled to April 17]. The rising EICs [editors in chief] are going to offer a how to write a case comment session. That’s going to be recorded as well. You will have a PowerPoint presentation online to view during the Competition and before, as well as a Word document they’ve prepared to walk you through the steps of actually writing the case comment, which I’ll go into a little bit later. If you have questions during the Write On Competition, as you inevitably will, please do not contact the editors. Please contact us--our e-mail address is lawwriteon@georgetown.edu and you will see that all over the place. The direct link for the Write On Competition, with all the information and all the documents, is gtlwriteon.org and again you will see that all over the place.

So some basics about the Competition. The Competition starts May 17th, which is a Friday, at 9:00 a.m. It’s Eastern Daylight Time. All the times we post are Eastern. I point that out because one year
we had somebody who was on the west coast and was a couple of hours behind and it didn’t end well for them, so remember everything is East Coast time.

All of your Competition materials, and I’ll go over those in a minute, will be due May 30th at 8:00 p.m. Again that’s May 30th at 8:00 p.m. Everything is Eastern time. Everything is submitted anonymously, so your name is not going to appear on anything and everything is going to be graded and scored anonymously.

The components of the Write On, for those of you who haven’t looked into it, it’s a case comment and again, there is a session that will tell you how to compose that. There is a Bluebook and Editing Exam. Your grades are going to be a component, and then some journals have personal statements and resumes. I’ll get into that in a little bit. Again I stress this: everything is due May 30th.

Judging--your papers are sent anonymously; it goes to three student judges on three different journals and they come up with a combined score for your case comment. Grades we get from the Registrar’s Office. They give us a number from 1 to 50: 1 being low, 50 being high. How that translates we have absolutely no idea but that is what makes up your grade component. Personal statements. Some journals, as I said, have personal statements as part of their overall competition score. This year you will have information about the personal statements available today. So when you are done here, if you want to go out and check out our website there is information there. You are permitted to start writing your personal statement before the actual Competition begins. If you want to go home tonight you can start on it tonight; just keep in mind you can’t upload anything until the Competition opens, but you can take a look and see what those journals are looking for. There is a preferencing factor which I’ll go into again a little bit later towards the end of the presentation. That’s basically how you tell the Write On Competition what journals you are interested in. Also up online and it’s available now is what we call the Journals Comparison Chart. It’s about 3 pages long, and it gives you all the specifics about every journal: how many members they are looking for through the competition, how they are weighting the
various aspects of the Competition, if they have office hour requirements. All that information will be online and available for you to review.

All right, let’s go into a little bit more detail about the competition. We hope to have it open for purchase on May 10th, which is a Friday. You won’t have access to the materials until the 17th but you can purchase early. It’s open to first-years (evening and day students) and late transfer admits. If anybody in here is a transfer student, come see me afterwards because there are a couple different dates for you guys.

You will have access to the materials (once you purchase) on May 17th, at 9:00 a.m. Everything is internet based so you do not have to be in D.C. to complete the competition at all. The 13 ½ days that you have comprises two weekends and Memorial Day. It’s designed to take about six days, so you have guys have almost two weeks to complete the Competition. If anybody has a deferred exam, if they could please contact our office at lawriteon we will give you different competition dates. You get at least 24 hours in between when you’re done with exams and when you start the Competition. You’ll still have the same amount of time but we just need to know so we can set that up in the system. And if anybody needs any accommodations during the Write On Competition, if you could reach out to Mara Bellino. She’s at 202-662-4042. She’ll let us know, not the specifics of it, but what it is you need and we’ll make that happen.

Some advice on getting through the Competition, which I promise is not as bad and as scary as it may sound. It’s a closed packet so you guys don’t do any research for it. We give you all the research materials. It’s all uploaded for you to then download and print off and read.

Again you are not to have contact with the EICs so if you have questions during the Competition period or even before the results are out, e-mail us at lawwriteon@georgetown.edu and we’ll get back to you.
We encourage you to read the instructions early and carefully. A lot of the questions we get come from stuff that is actually in the instructions, and people just sort of gloss over that, so I encourage you to take a look at the instructions before you actually start the competition.

Keep copies of everything you upload just in case. We’ve never actually needed it but it’s to your benefit so keep copies. Sorry, was there a question back there or, no, sorry did not mean to pick on you.

Timestamps. Everything needs to be timestamped. Make sure when you save your files that it’s the one that is timestamped before the Competition ends. And I can’t stress this part enough, if I could just say one thing to you guys sitting out here it would be this: don’t wait until the last minute. We’ve had students upload the wrong paper and that’s awful. If you’ve worked on it for two weeks and then you upload the wrong version, there is nothing you can do about it so give yourself enough time. Quite honestly, whatever you do in the last hour of the Competition isn’t going to make or break you so just don’t do that to yourself. This was kind of the first year, last year, where we didn’t have any panicking right before, which was great for us but I think also better for the competitors because they had everything in order.

As soon as you get access to the site take a little while just to familiarize yourself with what is there. When people are trying to do things too quickly is when they miss stuff. I promise it’s all logical, so just give yourself time to poke around the Write On web site.

When you submit personal statements you’ll see in the instructions there is a bunch of information about what needs to be redacted. We give you examples. You need to make it anonymous. So for example you shouldn’t have your name in the personal statement and I see smiles but people have done that. E-mail address, take that out, NetID some people have done that. We’ll go into further detail in the instructions but a good rule of thumb for that is basically show but don’t tell, and again take a look at the instructions It will all be outlined in there.
Now sort of the last part because I told you my part would be pretty short, take a look at the Journals Comparison Chart. That’s pretty much going to tell you everything you need to know about what the journals are looking for.

 Preferencing: that is the part that confuses people the most. There will probably be a bunch of questions afterwards and I expect that. So what is preferencing? Preferencing is how you tell the Write On database what journals you are interested in. You may preference all of them this year. The database will look at you in the order that you preferred the journals. So if you want to be on a certain journal, preference that journal high because you have a better chance of getting on. On the flip side, don’t preference a journal if you don’t want to be on it because if you get placed on that journal and you turn down membership you cannot then apply for another journal. So make wise choices.

The preferencing is open until mid-July. We make sure you guys have your grades so you can take that into account. And then something new this year--the Georgetown Law Journal has an opt in/opt out system. The default is if you compete in the Competition you are considered to have opted in to [attempting to be placed] on the Georgetown Law Journal. If you don’t want to be on the Georgetown Law Journal you have to opt out. If you opt in and you do not get on, it does not hurt your chances of the next ranked journal. So if you’ve ranked something 1 and you don’t get on to Georgetown Law Journal it doesn’t drop that 1 down to 2. There is no reason not to try if that is the journal you are interested in.

You will have until July 15th or so, we’ll send you an e-mail out to remind everybody when your preferences are due. So I wasn’t kidding, my part is super short. Are there questions, as I expect there should be. And there are French fry lights here so if I miss anybody just let me know.

**Speaker:** [opt in process for Georgetown Law Journal]

**Anna Selden:** This is the first year we’ve done this so the default is that you are opting into consideration for the Georgetown Law Journal. And then you can rank all the rest so while there are 12 journals so you can rank 11 of them (Georgetown Law Journal being the first one). And if you do not get
on the Georgetown Law Journal, it doesn’t move your ranks. Everything stays the same. It takes the risk factor out of it for you guys. Does that make sense? Perfect. One down here.

**Speaker:** [how does GLTR work with the preferencing system]

**Anna Selden:** Since there are two different systems, the Tech Law Review is not part of what we have. They are completely separate. And they also have their match results first, so if you want stay on the Tech Journal then you can drop out of our OJA Competition. We purposely run the dates like that so nobody ends up losing members. Over here.

[The Georgetown Law Technology Review can be found at georgetownlawtechreview.org]

**Speaker:** [will we see our case comment score]

**Anna Selden:** So will you get to see the grade on your case comment and the answer is simple: no. So unfortunately that’s a blind piece going into the Competition. But you will have your grades before you have to have all your preferencing done, so you will know that piece of it.

**Speaker:** [dual degree students]

**Anna Selden:** Yes, the question was whether or not dual degree students can compete if they are not going to be here next year, so the short answer is yes, the long answer is please e-mail lawwriteon@georgetown.edu so we can work it out because it’s a little bit different for each.

**Speaker:** [paying for the competition]

**Anna Selden:** There will be a link that will take you to a Pay Pal and the cost of the packet is $40.00, credit card, Master Card, Visa. Down here.

**Speaker:** [can you match to more than one journal]

**Anna Selden:** The system will go through your preferences and look at your first choice to see if you match. If you don’t match, it will continue to drop down and place you on the next one that you match. To reiterate so there is no confusion on this: if you match to a journal and decline membership - which we hope you won’t do - you can’t then try for another journal. It’s a one and done. There’s another one over here.
**Speaker:** [purchase price]

**Anna Selden:** Where does the purchase price go towards? It goes towards the database upgrades which we do every year to make it a better system. Back in the red.

**Speaker:** [what do the grades scores mean]

**Anna Selden:** No, and I have no idea how it corresponds. I assume you guys will know this, when you get your grades do you get a class rank or anything or do you just get, yeah. That’s a Registrar issue. We just take the number and upload it into the system. There were others? Did someone else?

**Speaker:** [OCI]

**Anna Selden:** Absolutely. I mean unless there is some major catastrophe—we set our deadlines so you have them probably a week before OCI.

**Speaker:** [number of preferences]

**Anna Selden:** The question was how many preferences do you have to select. It’s up to you. You can select all of them, you can select two. I would just say select the ones you are interested in. If you just want to be on a journal, then you can go for all of them but if you are specifically targeting certain journals just pick journals you want to work with.

**Speaker:** [financial aid]

**Anna Selden:** Yes, if you have concerns about that, e-mail lawwriteon@georgetown.edu, we’ll get that sorted. The question was is there financial aid so yes definitely reach out to us and we’ll take care of that.

**Speaker:** [Georgetown Law Journal as second choice]

**Anna Selden:** So the question is what if the Georgetown Law Journal is your second choice. Unfortunately, it doesn’t work that way. You either opt in and they are your first choice or you decide not to opt in.

**Speaker:** [do we have to compete this year]
Anna Selden: Is this the only opportunity to apply to write-on? Yes--for the 12 journals that comprise this Competition yes. If you are interested in being on journal you must go for the Competition now. The Tech Review takes third-years so you have that option as well.

Speaker: [what percentage of students get on journal]

Anna Selden: A lot. And a very scientific number--a lot. You can probably do the math if you take a look at the Comparison Chart to see just how big the staff sizes are altogether. Yeah in back.

Speaker: [study abroad policies]

Anna Selden: So the question was if students studying abroad for the semester can participate. The answer is yes and I would say take a look at the Comparison Chart because some journals have restrictions on what roles you can assume during your third year, so definitely take a look at that comparison chart and if you have further questions e-mail us and we’ll get an answer for you.

[Specific information can be found on the Write On website]

Speaker:[GLTR ranking]

Anna Selden: So the question was how the Tech Law ranking works with the Georgetown Law ranking. They are two separate competitions. So this write on competition is completely separate from what the Tech Law Journal does. They run their own match process. So you can rank all the ones you want here and then you can also do that separate competition.

Speaker: [can we discuss the write on with others]

Anna Selden: The question was whether or not you can talk to other students during the Write On Competition. Good question, and the answer is: you may not. That is included in the terms and in the instructions. I know as exciting as it may be to discuss the Write On topic with others, treat it like an exam and do not do that. It’s a closed packet and we’ll go into this in the instructions but you are only citing and using what’s actually in the packet so completely closed. Yeah.

Speaker: [timing of the results]
Anna Selden: Right, so the question is when the results come out, do the Tech Law results come out the same time as ours. The Tech Law results come out before, probably about a week to two weeks before. The hope is you’ll make a decision based on that and then either decide to stay in the OJA Competition or to just drop out completely because you’ve doing the Tech Law Journal. We have had students that hedge their bets and then drop off one or the other. The reason I don’t necessarily encourage that—when you get placed to a journal if you decline membership you can’t look for another one. If a journal loses members they don’t get to pick up additional members so we’re trying to time the competitions so that doesn’t happen.

Speaker: [timing of the How To session]

Anna Selden: Interesting. The question was about the timing of the How To session. We actually had the students plan it, so it may not have been something they looked into and I will certainly consider that for next year. It will be recorded so if there is a little bit too much going on you can watch a video recording and it will be captioned as well.

NOTE: THIS SESSION WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 17, 330pm- 430pm, IN MCD 205.

Speaker: [does a journal see how you ranked them]

Anna Selden: Everything is anonymous so they will see how the packet numbers ranked them, but they won’t know who that packet is. The system will attempt to match the people who ranked them 1 first. It will look through those first, then it’ll go the second one. When they get their staff they won’t know who ranked them where.

Did we get any other questions? Excellent. Well I’m here afterwards if you want to come up. Some people don’t like asking questions in front of a crowd that’s not a problem. And for those of you who have no more questions we encourage you to go over to Wednesday Wind-Down, get some beer and food and please ask questions of our EICs and thank you all for coming. [END RECORDING]