Anna Selden: All right. We'll go ahead and get started. Those of you who have joined the session live, thank you very much. I know you guys have a lot going on right now. We appreciate you being here. Hopefully we won't take too much of your time, as you go through the slides here.

Not sure what folks have already heard about the Write On, but we've made a whole bunch of changes in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. We're hoping it will make this competition period a lot less stressful for everybody out there. Because we know this isn't how you planned having your 1L year.

The first thing I want to get across is, one, this is totally doable. We usually get a lot of panicked faces in front of us. And it's odd because I can't see you all right now. But that's the first thing we want to assure you. We've really taken that into consideration this year, so at least realize that that part of it will be completely doable. I'll introduce myself. My name is Anna Selden. I'm the director of the Office of Journal Administration, and together with Stacy Carmichael who's on the call with us as well, we make up the Office of Journal Administration, and we run the Write On competition, and work with the journals.

Before we get started, we're going to try either the raise your hand or write into the chat, whichever one you have, for questions. It's a little new to me. So we'll figure out which works best. But I want to assure you that we'll get to all of your questions before we release you guys to the various breakout rooms.

There's one...

So, first of all, Stacy and I work with the Office of Journal Administration. We manage all the law journals and the Write On competition itself. There are 12 law journals that are in the Write On competition run by OJA. There's another journal at Georgetown, the Georgetown Law Tech Review. They have a separate Write On process.

The Georgetown law technology review focuses on the intersections between technology, policy, and the law. Not only does this focus mean that GLTR is often working on subjects that are cutting edge of the law, but it also means that it covers a wide range of subjects, from privacy and cybersecurity to health law to education.
integrity. Our relationship with Georgetown's Institute for technology law and policy keeps us in touch with the latest trends in tech law. We offer a chance to publish and be an associate editor during the 2L year. GLTR runs its own Write On process, which is generally after OJA, a little different this year, and is a little bit distinctive. It's open to rising 2Ls and 3Ls and involves a different type of writing. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this Write On. A technical background is absolutely not required.

If you would like for -- more information on the tech competition, please send an e-mail to gltr@georgetown.edu. The Write On competition for the tech review is free and open to enter for current students on Friday, May 22nd and will close on Monday, June 8th. Again, that's Friday May 22nd through Monday June 8th. It will be open to all transfer students as well starting on Friday July 24th and closing on Monday August 10th.

That is the tech review. If you have questions for OJA on our Write On, our e-mail address is on the screen there. Lawwriteon@georgetown.edu. We're happy to help you out and get you situated. The Write On website, which you will become quite familiar with in the coming weeks, is gtlwriteon.org.

What is the Write On competition? It's open to first years and first year evening students, and also to late-admit transfer students. If that applies to you, you'll be participating in the transfer competition. One change we made this year is we lowered the price to $20 for the 2020 competition. And what we've been doing, we're working with the folks in the financial department and rather than have you guys pay for the purchase price to enter the competition, we're going to defer that, and it will hit your student account more likely in the fall.

If you have any financial difficulties at all, please contact OJA at the Write On e-mail address and we'll be happy to work with you.

The competition is all internet based. You do not need to be in DC. This year, to take some stress off the whole process, we've worked out something where, if you wish, we'll send you a free printed copy of the materials once you've purchased and started the competition. Again, that will be free if you want a copy of all the materials. We're happy to do that. And if you have questions once the competition opens, please reach out to OJA at the Law Write On e-mail address. Please don't e-mail individual editors in chief. They'll just send you to us. If you have questions, again, that's lawwriteon@georgetown.edu.

And then if you have a deferred exam, if there's anyone out here who has a deferred exam, you need to wait at least 24 hours after your last exam in order to start the competition.

If you need any sort of accommodations for disability in order to participate, please contact Mara Bellino. Her information is here. (202) 662-4042 or mcb260@georgetown.edu.

She's the Disability Services Coordinator. And you can either e-mail her or give her a call, let her know what's going on, and she'll work with us.
The specifics of the competition. What we did this year, again, to sort of take some of
the stress, because everybody's in very unique situations now, some people are at
home with lots of people running round, it's not your normal study space, the
competition is going to open May 15th at 9:00 a.m. what's different this year is each
competitor can select their own three week window. The key here is, don't purchase the
right to the competition until you're ready to start. Once you purchase, that's going to
trigger the time clock so your three week time will start.

All the materials, everything -- we'll get into that in a minute -- all the materials are due
on July 22nd by 11:59 p.m., and everything listed is all in Eastern daylight time.
Remember that if you're out in California or somewhere else.

July 1st is the last day to purchase the packet and get the full three weeks.

If you don't want to purchase the packet until July 5th, that's totally fine. But please keep
in mind everything is due July 22nd at 11:59 p.m. And everything is Eastern Time.

What's the Write On? That obviously is a huge question that everyone asks. There are
four possible components to the Write On competition. Um...

Hang on one second...

I think we have a question coming in. As soon as I get that, I'll stop and answer that.

Anyhow, sorry, apologies.

The four weighted components are, first, the case comments.

Second is the blue book and editing exam.

The third component is grades.

And then the fourth possible component for journals that have it are the personal
statements and/or resume.

Case comment. What is it? It's a paper, simply put. It's a paper. There's a session
tomorrow. It's going to be at 4:30, and the Zoom link was sent out, we'll send it out
again tomorrow. 4:30 to 5:30. Taught by two current editors in chief. They'll walk you
through the specifics of the case comment, suggest how long to spend on each time,
how to format your paper, so it won't be new to you when you start the competition.

Let me see really quickly. There appears to be a question. Bear with me, here, folks.

We have one question. Do we order printed materials by e-mailing you?

There will be a button within the competition that you click on, and it will say that you
want to order materials. So once you enter the competition, you will have the ability to
go ahead and order the printed materials.
And will the case comment session tomorrow being recorded? Absolutely, it will be recorded and posted on the Write On website. You'll have the PowerPoint presentation that they give, and you'll also have a Word file. So, tons of documents.

Ah, yes! Somebody asked a good question. Before I try to write everything down, will the PowerPoint be made available? We will make it available! Absolutely. So if there's information you don't get, it will be available to you on the competition site.

The Zoom session, yes, it is tomorrow. Apologies if we had the wrong date in there. It's tomorrow, Thursday, at 4:30. Again, apologies if I managed to put the wrong one here. I did! I put the wrong day. Yes, apologies, tomorrow, Thursday, the 23.

The case comments, 7 pages of text, 3 pages of end notes. They'll be graded by three editors from three law journals. It's closed packet. No outside research. And we made them shorter this year, to make it a little easier for you guys. Everything is done anonymously. You'll get a packet number when you register for the competition, and that's how you'll identify yourself, by the packet number.

Blue book and editing exam. I've taken a student note that has not been published, and you'll be given an excerpt of that. There will be 25 points for editing and 25 points for blue booking. There will be more detailed instructions when you get the exam. But it's all done in Microsoft Word through track changes. Those exams are graded by current journal students. Some journals factor in grades.

In response to the mandatory pass/fail, most of the journals have decreased their weight on the grades factor. They thought that would make that less stressful for everybody. So there's that.

And then some journals require -- excuse me, ask for personal statements and/or resumes. There will be a journal comparison chart online that will outline which journals have those statements. Again, everything is anonymous here. Pay close attention to the instructions. We will explain exactly what to redact. But the good rule of thumb here is, show and don't tell. We will give you examples in the instructions if you have questions on that part.

All right. Preferencing. This, I think, is the trickiest part of the Write On competition for students, but we're here to break it down for you.

I mentioned the journal comparisons chart. That will give you information online, on every journal, their staff size, what you can expect if you work for the journal, and more importantly it gives you the weights and breakdowns of how they look at each component. We encourage to you look at that as you decide what to preference.

Second, preferencing order matters. The way the database is configured is it aims to match students with their first choice journal. So rank the journals in the order in which you like them.
Georgetown Law Journal has moved to an opt in, opt out system that supersedes all the numeric preferences. So if you don't want to be considered for it, you have to opt out of it. Otherwise we as the database assume you want to be considered for the Georgetown Law Journal.

Opting in does not have any impact of your chances of joining other journals. So you still rank another journal 1, 2, 3, and so forth, and Georgetown Law Journal is run first.

And then, went to the wrong place... apologies.

Regardless of whatever competition window you choose for yourself, you'll have up until the end of the competition period to switch around your preferences. We won't have grade information until the beginning of June or so. So we want to give you time to play around with the preferences. You don't have to do that right away. Some students do it when they first go in, which is fine, but you absolutely don't have to.

The last slide, and then if there's questions that would be great, read all the instructions. We can't sort of stress that enough. We've gone through them with a relatively fine-toothed comb, and pretty much everything you need to know is in there.

We encourage you to read those over.

Then keep a copy of everything that you upload to the website, you should keep a copy of it.

What we mean by keep file stamps. Once you upload your document and we encourage to you give yourself enough time to download to make sure you've uploaded the right file, because every year there's at least one student who uploads something as a case comment that's not a case comment. You want to keep the time stamps preserved because in there's an issue, having the time stamps will allow us to know when you actually finished the file.

That's the end of my presentation. I told you it would be relatively quick.

I see we have a few questions.

We have a question from a dual degree student, and I will answer you offline if that's okay, because I don't think necessarily everyone has that. But I will get back to you on that one.

How do we find the comparison chart? If you go to GTL Write On -- the Write On website, there will be the document, the comparison chart, as well as letters from the editor, for those of you who are looking for journals that take personal statements, the prompts will be available shortly. So you can go in, you can take a look at those, you can start working on the personal statements now if you wish. You don't have to. But you can't upload it until you actually start the competition, but, yeah, you can certainly go into them.
And apologies, the letters and charts, all that stuff is already up there. So you can look at the Write On website.

Yes, the question is, if we do not opt out of GLJ, will that automatically be made our first choice? The answer is yes.

So you can still rank another journal 1, but it looks at GLJ first. If you don't make it onto GLJ, it doesn't change your other rankings. You still have another journal as one. So no harm, no foul if you choose to opt in.

Will it take three weeks to compete or is it designed to be completed in left time? Absolutely, it's designed to be finished in about 5 days. The editors wanted to give everybody as much time as possible. But, again, it takes about 5 days, and you have three weeks to complete it. So as we say, sort of choose wisely. Take a look at a calendar. If there's a weekend that you know you can't work on it, maybe you don't want to select that one. But, yes, absolutely, 5 days.

If we make it onto Georgetown Law Journal and another journal was our real first choice, are we stuck with GLJ? Good question, yes. So if you don't want to be on Georgetown Law Journal, don't preference it just to see if you get on. Because whatever journal you place on, that's where you are. You can't then select another one. You can opt out and decide not to be on a journal. We hope that doesn't happen. But, yeah, definitely don't preference a journal if you don't have interest in it. Because if you place, then you're -- that's where you are!

Do you have a sample case comment? Absolutely. Those will be made available in advance. You'll have a sample list of materials as well. Keep in mind that this year's packet is much shorter. So when you look at the sample materials, please don't panic. You're not getting that many pages of materials, I promise you. It's a good deal shorter.

Thank you, someone posted the link to the comparison chart, so you have that in the chat.

Will we be able to submit personal statements after the three week window? Excellent question: No. An easy answer.

So when your three week window is approaching, you have to upload everything. Your case comment, your blue book exam, any personal statements. Every piece of materials that are part of the competition, you have to upload that within the three week window. So if you're doing personal statements, please don't forget to upload those when your window time is open.

Okay. Does the comparison chart include information about estimated time commitment for each journal? Some journals have, but not every journal. If you're curious, you can talk with the editors in the breakout session. If you're not able to get that question answered, you can always e-mail them that question before the competition starts. If it's
during the competition, if you e-mail lawwriteon@georgetown.edu, we'll get that question answered for you.

Do the journals see your rankings? They do, but everything is anonymous, so they won't know who you are. They'll just know your packet number, and then your scores, but there's no name attached to it.

So, it's... again, they will see it, but it's not going to impact anything, because they can't decide not to take you based on that. As long as you fall within their cutoff.

If we request files to be send in the mail, will we still have access -- good question, Jacob, thank you. Will we still have access to the digital versions? Absolutely. You'll have access to the digital versions as soon as you purchase the competition and enter. Everything is going to be there.

Delivery of the actual paper copy isn't going to impact your competition window, so once you go in, that triggers it. We're going to try and send them out next day FedEx, so we have one guy in the mail room, so it may take a couple days to get there. So keep that in mind, that packet arrival doesn't change when the packet is due.

Can we learn more about what the blue booking will look like? If you attend the case comment session, they'll talk a little bit about that.

A lot of students ask what they can do to prepare for it. There's really no preparing for it. There's nothing that you should kind of be reading now. The editors will point out in the how-to session the major blue book rules that are used for the case comment, and that's fairly similar to what we're testing on the blue book exam.

How competitive is it to place on any journal in general?

So... if you take a look, and add up the staff size that every journal is looking for, and add up the number of 1Ls, you can figure out from that. There's a high number of students that place. So we encourage folks to do it. There's really high placement rates.

If you look at the journal comparison chart, it will tell you the staff size for each journal. I don't remember them off the top of my head and I'll probably get them wrong. So look at the comparison chart and it will tell you how many are accepted to each journal.

Do we have to rank all the journals? Absolutely not. Rank all the journals you're interested in. If you're interested in being on any journal, rank all of them. If you're only interested in 3 or 4, just rank the 3 or 4 you're interested in.

What percentage of people make it on journals? Again, that number is super high. You can do the math by looking at the comparison chart. But it's a good number.

Does Office of Journal Administration provide uniform prompt and materials? Yes. We will upload all the materials you're supposed to use for the case comment. And all the journals use the same case comment stuff. Everything is uniform there.
If a journal requires a resume, do we remove our name and contact information? Excellent question, yes. Keep in mind, this is an anonymous competition, so if there's anything that can identify you, please redact that. As we say, show, don't tell. And it will all be in the instructions with good examples. So it should lay it out pretty easily.

Would it be possible to pick up a printed packet if we are in DC? No, because the campus is closed. So we unfortunately will have to mail those out to you.

Can we just print the materials after getting them electronically? Oh, you can absolutely print them yourself. It's totally up to you. We sort of made that decision because we figured a lot of you guys don't have printers at home anymore, at least right now. So you can absolutely print it yourself or send it to Kinko's to print it as well.

How does participating in the GLTR competition affect the main Write On competition? Can we be selected for other journals? Yes, absolutely. You can be placed on an OJA journal through the Write On competition and you can be placed on the Tech Journal and you're permitted to serve on two. You can't be on two OJA journals. But you can be on the tech review and you can be on one of the OJA journals. Totally up to you.

If we choose not to opt out of the main journal, and we... may we -- and we are selected for main journal, may we join... okay, so the GLJ match -- that's a good question. Sorry, I think I got it here. The Georgetown Law Journal match runs first. So they go through and get their members first. If you get onto GLJ, that's where you are. If not, it sort of goes down your other list of journals. And that goes, again, in order of rank. So when you get to ranking them, the journal that you want to be on first, you would rank that 1, and so forth. Because that's how the database looks at it. Again, preference them in the order that you want to be on the journals.

What resources, if any, can we consult? Basically, dictionary, law dictionary, a couple manuals of style. But they're all laid out specifically in the instructions.

Is the $20 due before May 15th? No. What we're doing, again, this year is we're going to be charging student accounts, and that doesn't happen until the fall. So you absolutely don't have to have the $20 in your bank account to start the competition. We thought that would take little bit of the stress off trying to figure out that piece. So it's not due before you start. It's not due before you finish.

Does GLTR count as a secondary journal for application processes? I have absolutely no idea. I would say no, but talk to career resources on that. Because that is above my pay grade to answer that question!

We got a bunch of these. I have to scroll down! Good job, Anna.

Okay. Is the blue book -- good question. Everything, the case comment, the blue book exam, and your personal statements, that's all in that three week window. So it doesn't matter which day you do any of those or upload them as long as you upload them by the end of the competition, fine. If you want to take three weeks for the blue book exam,
feel free. Personally I think it's good to give yourself time to step away from the blue book exam and then come back. But totally up to you.

Another redaction question. Again, we'll give specific examples. But as long as it can't be traced to just one person, it's fine. We'll go through and make sure that you guys have redacted that stuff. But again, there will be examples in the instructions. It will make a lot more sense, I promise.

Is the split of the law journals typically half 2Ls and half 3Ls? Yes, because they take the same amount of staff every year. So generally half 2Ls, half 3Ls.

Very good question, thank you. How do the personal diversity statements get graded? Each journal that has a diversity statement has their own rubric for scoring them. As far as I know, they're only graded -- actually, I don't know if they're graded by one, two, or three, but again, each journal is different on that.

Results. We hope to get results by late August. That is our goal. We wanted to give the first years as much time to compete and our judges as much time to grade as well. So that's our goal, end of August. Results will be available on the Write On database. We'll send them when they come out.

We had a little more flexibility this year because IW has been moved to spring. So we don't have to rush out with results this year.

And when do we find out if we're placed? Exactly. It's the end of August. We'll send you guys an e-mail.

I think I may have gotten all the questions. Anyone have any more questions? Bear with me here. I think I may have missed one. This is the problem with too many screens.

Will the instructions tell us, for the editing portion... yes, that was my murky way of butchering a very good question.

Yes, the blue book instructions will tell you exactly what editing things we're looking for. Same with the footnotes. It will be very clear what you're supposed to do, what we're looking for.

One thing I point out, because students always panic about this, and it's in the instructions. One thing the blue book looks at is spacing between case cites and things. I don't care about that. People panic every year. I'm not going to ask you to determine if there's one space or two spaces. Every year students get freaked out. Yeah, no, we're not looking at that.

I think I have all the questions from the chat.

Do you have to participate if you place?

You do not. We're not going to force you to be on a journal. We do ask that if you place, you do take the spot, just because the journal doesn't have a chance to then get
another staff member. But, again, if your circumstances change, we're not going to force you. Nobody wants that. You don't want that. They don't want that. So just think about that.

Are all journals moving to the summer or just international?

I'm not as certain what you have in mind by that question. If you're talking about production stuff...

Will the instructions include details on how to submit a personal statement? Absolutely. For the journals that ask for it, there will be a box for the personal statement.

We hope you accept the offers that you get. That is our hope.

If my first choice is tech review, should I participate in both Write Ones? I can't answer that for you. If that's your first choice, I guess I would see, I'm not certain if they said when the results come out. But if you get their results before our competition ends, that kind of answers the question for you. But you sort of have to decide on a personal level if you think you got onto the tech review and if you think it's worth doing two competitions. A lot of people just do two and then make a choice then.

Can we do Write On before 3L? No. Unfortunately if you don't make it on an OJA journal, that's kind of where the chips fall.

What is the deferral process for evening students? Good question, thank you for asking.

Evening students have an option to defer to their 3E or 4E year. We just ask that you let the editor know if you get on a journal. I should say the deferral process won't impact your ability to get on a journal. It doesn't impact that at all.

Are all journals a two year commitment? Good question. Yes. All journals are a two year commitment.

If you're ranking more than one journal, should we write more than one personal statement? That's really up to you. See how they weight stuff. Most people that write personal statements turn them in for every journal they're interested in. But that's up to you. Should you write a more generalized personal statement? Some of the prompts overlap, some don't. But the more journal-specific information you give somebody in a personal statement, the more likely they are to score your paper high. Keep that in mind.

Okay... so are all journals making -- moving up their production schedule to help the rising 2Ls focus on grades? Excellent.

Appreciate the edit for that, thank you. That makes sense. I don't know how they are changing that in order to allow 2Ls to focus on grades. That's kind of up to each journal. It's something that the rising 3Ls are very considerate of. So they want to make sure that your journal schedule works with your class schedule. But as far as shifting production schedules, I do not know specifically.
Is there any more detail on how the grades will be used? Yes. If you look at the comparison chart, you'll see how each journal weights grades. A lot of journals have dropped grades in the overall weight in light of mandatory pass-fail. But the chart will tell you what each journal is doing.

Is it possible to study abroad and be on a journal? We've uploaded a study abroad policy for all the journals. Take a look at those. For the most part, yes, with the restriction of if you choose to study abroad during the 3L year, the majority of journals, there are certain editorial positions you won't be able to hold because you're not on campus. But look at the study abroad policy, because it's outlined there for each journal.

I think.... do we have any other questions?

I think I got everyone.

It's so hard because I can't see your faces because I don't know if anyone is -- ah, okay.

Do we choose which way we want to be selected for a law journal? No. If you make it in one of the three ways, you don't get to choose. Which is good. Because you don't know your score. So it will pick the one that's best for you.

See if we have other questions. Here we go.

Okay. Is the personal statement due at the same time as the other application materials? Yes. Again, your blue book exam, case comment, and personal statement and/or resume are all due at the end of your three week competition window. That gives me another chance to say, we can't encourage you enough to not wait until the last minute to upload your materials. You don't want to have internet problems. You want to make sure you have time to download the files, to make sure you upload the right ones. If your materials are due at 1:00 p.m., for example, don't start uploading at 12:59. I guarantee you it won't be good for your blood pressure. Give yourself some time to upload the stuff and make sure that you uploaded the correct materials.

Another question, yes, absolutely, the PowerPoint will be made available. We'll put that on the website. And we'll have this presentation as well. So for those who weren't able to attend or who joined late, you'll have access to everything.

I think I got all of the questions... is that it? I don't think we have any more questions. There seems to be a lull in that.

Well, thank you. I appreciate everyone spending time with me, and listening to me ramble on about this. Again, everything that we said today will be available. You can access it throughout the competition period. We'll put up the PowerPoints.

Now you guys have the breakout rooms for the EIC questions. They're eagerly awaiting you guys. And if you need anything further explained, can you e-mail lawwriteon@georgetown.edu, and we'll happy to get back to you. Again, good luck with
the rest of your first year. I'm sorry it ended in such a wonky way. But you should all be
very proud, because it's quite an accomplishment.

That's it. Again, thank you very much. We appreciate it.

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