Anna: If I can get everybody's attention, we'll get started please. Excellent. You guys win the award. That's the soonest a group has quieted down for me, so thank you. Thank you very much. If you guys are here for the Journal Town Hall, you are in the proper place. My name is Anna. I work in the Office of Journal Administration. My colleague Stacy is sitting over here.

A quick rundown on the event. I will go through my presentation and then I will open the floor to questions. So if you could hold them until after, that would be wonderful. I will more than likely repeat your questions so we get it captured for the record. And once we're all done here, we'll send you guys out to this lovely spring day and the editors will be out for Wednesday Wind Down. So without further ado, I will start telling you about the 2022 Write On Competition.

As you heard, we are the Office of Journal Administration, we manage and run the Write On Competition. We manage the journals as well. There are 12 OJA journals (UPDATE: There are now 11 OJA journals, the Food and Drug Law Journal is no longer associated with Georgetown Law) that are in the Write On Competition. Georgetown Law also has the Georgetown Law Technology Review, and they run a separate competition. Their editor has sent me a brief statement, which I'm going to read into the record and will also be available as part of the transcript after the event is over. And this is the statement from the Tech Review.

"Congratulations on nearing the end of your 1L year. As you think about the coming year, consider writing on to the Georgetown Law Technology Review. GLTR is a growing organization focused on the intersection between technology and the law. Over the past six years, GLTR has partnered with The Institute on Technology Law and Policy, and built a strong reputation for facilitating the conversation between lawyers, policymakers and technologists. In addition to notes and articles, we publish technology explainers and legal impression articles. Shorter form pieces making technology concepts and trends accessible to lawyers and others. Many members do not have a technical background before joining the Journal and you do not need one either. GLTR is an entry point into the legal field that will continue to grow. Importantly, the GLTR's write on process is separate from the OJA Write On Competition and you are allowed to apply for and participate in both the Technology Review and an OJA journal. The GLTR Write On Competition is open from May 27th to June 9th. Check us out at georgetownlawtechnologyreview.org, or email the journal at GLTR@georgetown.edu with any questions."

And if anybody didn't get any email addresses, I'm happy to read it to them afterwards.

All right. Now on to the OJA Write On Competition. If you have any questions after this event is over, and throughout the Write On Competition, please reach out to us at lawwriteon@georgetown.edu. Again, that is lawwriteon@georgetown.edu. And the website to access the Write On Competition is gtlwriteon.org. Again, gtlwriteon.org.

Okay. What is the Write On competition? It's open to first-year day students and first-year evening students. We also have a transfer competition and so we run two
competitions simultaneously. It's $40 to compete in the Write On Competition. We charge student accounts in the fall. If for any reason you're experiencing any sort of financial hardship, please reach out to OJA at lawwriteon@georgetown.edu, and we will work with you. Please don't let the price be a barrier to competing in the Competition.

Everything about the Competition is internet-based, so you don't need to be in DC. It doesn't matter where you are. You can compete from anywhere. And as I said earlier, if you have any questions, once the competition starts, please don't reach out to the individual journal editors. Please contact us at lawwriteon@georgetown.edu and we will answer your questions.

If you have a deferred exam in the spring, you must wait 24 hours after the end of your last exam before you can compete in the Write On Competition.

If you need any sort of disability accommodations to complete, please reach out to Mary Ellen Vigeant. She is the disability services coordinator. She can be reached either via phone at (202) 662-4042 or disabilityservices@georgetown.edu. If you explain your circumstances to Mary Ellen, she will reach out to me and we will make sure that you have what you need to compete in the Write On Competition.

All right, now the important part. The competition opens on May 20th, which is a Friday, at 9:00 AM. Each competitor selects their own two-week window during which to compete so it's up to you. Take a look at your calendar for the summer, what your work schedule might be and figure out for you what two-week period works best. Best piece of advice: don't start the competition until you're actually ready to begin competing. Because once you start, that means your two-week window for when your materials are due will run.

If you have questions, on the upper left hand side of the screen when you login, it will show when you've accepted the honor code and it'll give you the date for when your competition materials are due. So please make sure you pay attention to that. And also remember all time are Eastern, so pay attention to that especially if you're not on the east coast when you're competing.

The Competition ends on July 6th at 11:59 PM. If you work backwards and do the math, June 22nd is a last day to purchase the materials and have the full two weeks to compete. You can purchase the materials after June 22nd, but you won't get an additional time. If you purchase the materials three days after June 22nd, you'll have three days less to complete the materials. So make sure you schedule that in when you figure out when you're going to start the competition.

All right, so now that you know the dates, you're probably wondering the heck is the Write On? What do I have to do? There are four weighted components as part of the Write On Competition: a case comment, a Bluebook exam, your grades, and then possible personal statements or resumes that the journals may request.
I'll go over this a little bit more at the end with other Write On programming, but a few of our journals have gotten together and they will present a How to Write a Case Comment session, which I believe everybody's been emailed about already. It's on April 22nd. It's virtual. It starts at noon. And the link is also on our website to join the zoom session.

Circling back to the case comment. So it's a paper--because I had somebody ask one year, "What is a case comment?" Simply put, it is a paper. Seven pages of text and three pages of end notes. Your case comments are graded. It's all done anonymously and they're graded by three different judges from three different law journals. The packet is a closed packet, which means we will give you all the research materials you will need. You don't do any outside research and it's also done anonymously. So when you submit, you won't submit with your name, you'll submit with your packet number, which you will get when you start the competition.

The Bluebook and Editing exam, which I can tell by look on your faces is what everybody's really looking forward to. I knew it. Just knew it. So the way it works this year, there's 20 points for the editing portion, what's known as above the line. And then there's 30 points for the footnoting, the Bluebooking section.

And then grades, which we get from the Registrar. Students ask us every year, you know what GPAs they need to get on X and such journal. I'll sort of nip that in the bud and say, we don't know. I don't know what people's GPAs are. We get a number from the Registrar, so it doesn't translate to us how it correlates on a 4.0 scale.

And the last component is personal statements. Some journals have them. In fact, most of our journals do. We've posted a comparison chart online, which is the best place to look. We also have letters from the editors. So take a look at that, see who requires what. A couple things about the personal statement. They're all submitted anonymously. We will have very explicit information in the instructions about redacting and not including personal information. The nutshell to sort of get out of that is: show don't tell when you turn in your personal statements in your resumes. Don't be the person that leaves your name on there or that redacts everything but leaves your net ID. And yes, that's happened.

And now we're going to go over the part, which I think maybe more challenging for most people sort of grasp, get their heads around, but it's the preferencing section of the Write On Competition. So again, refer to the journals' comparison chart because that will tell you how each journal has weighted each component of the Write On Competition.

And what I hope is exciting news for everybody, we're really hoping this year to expand the staff sizes of the journals across the board, but in order to do that, and we need a lot of you guys to participate. So keep that in mind; the more of you participate, the more chances are that you'll get on journals, because we can open up a few more spots. So just keep that in mind when you're thinking about whether or not you want to turn in the materials.
Preferencing. So when you tell the system which journals you want to be on, it completely matters. The order you preference the journals matters. The system, the database aims to place you on your first choice journal first.

So think logically about how you want to be selected for journals, which ones you're interested in. You don't have to preference all of them. You can if you want. That is completely fine. Best advice as well is if you're not interested in being on a specific journal, don't preference it because if you get on the journal, you don't get to then pick another journal and it means they lose a slot. So just think critically about which ones you're looking for. The nice thing about the preferencing piece is, let's say you compete in May and so your packets due two weeks after that. Everybody has until the end of the competition, until July 6th at midnight to set their preferences. So you can wait for your grades to roll in before you figure out the order that you want to preference the journals.

Note about Georgetown Law Journal. They have an opt-in system, so everybody is automatically opted into consideration for Georgetown Law Journal. If you don't want to be considered for GLJ, you need to effectively and actively opt-out of that. If you opt-in to Georgetown Law Journal and do not get on, it does not hurt your chances of getting on other journals. So there's absolutely zero risk. But just think about whether or not obviously you want to be on that. Up to you.

I can't express this part enough but once we post the instructions, make sure you read them carefully. They're short but there is a lot of information in there. The majority of questions that we get asked during the competition are actually in the instructions. So make sure you read them and read them carefully. One good example is when I say for the Bluebook exam, that spacing doesn't matter. Please don't write to me and ask if it matters. If there's one space or two, it doesn't matter.

Make sure you keep a copy of all your submissions and make sure you preserve the timestamp. So once you've submitted the file, don't do anything else with it. Preserve that timestamp in there.

Again, I can't stress this part enough, but don't wait until the last minute to submit. You want to give yourself a chance to download the files, to make sure you upload the right ones. My sort of joke that gets no laughter every year, but it did happen. Somebody submitted a recipe one year as a case comment and they didn't get on journal because that's not a case comment. We've had examples of people submitting their Bluebook exam instead of their case comment and vice versa. You don't want to be in that situation. So please, please give yourself enough time to download it and to make sure that you've uploaded the right one.

And I mentioned at the beginning, there's a couple of Write On programming events that are going to be available to you in the coming week or two. The first is on April 20th, Georgetown Law Journal. The law fellows are going to host a Bluebooking workshop. It's April 20th at 4:00 PM in McDonough 201. And all of this information is on our website as well. I just wanted to put it out here. That event is supposed to be
recorded. So if you can’t attend, our hope is to get a hold of the recording and post it for everybody.

I already mentioned that how to write a case comment. That one is on April 20th. It starts at noon. It'll be virtual. Again, the link is on our website. We will post a recording of that event, the transcript, and probably importantly to everybody sitting in the room, the slide deck that the students use. And there's an accompanying word file. And you can refer to all of those things during the actual Write On Competition.

And then two more events. The Journals on Diversity, which will be held April 25th. It's 8:00 PM in McDonough 202. That's more of a casual event so it's not going to be recorded.

Georgetown Law Journal is going to host a content mixture on April 27th, 4:00 PM at McDonough 202. And same thing. That's more of an informal event, so that's not going to be recorded either. But again, all of those dates and times are listed on our website so you'll have access to that.

Great. So I've gone through my piece. If anyone has any questions, please raise your hand. I'll do my best to call on you. And like I said, I'm going to repeat the question so I can capture it for the transcript and make sure I got what you were asking me. So someone's got to have a question. Yes.


Anna: Absolutely. So the question was is the GPA first semester and second semester. We get the grades from the register probably sometime towards the middle, towards the end of June. But that's also why we keep preferencing open because you may think, "I really didn't do that well," and so you preference one way and then it turns out you totally rocked it with grades. And so you want to switch. So that's why we keep it open, right? Yes. In the back.

Speaker 3: Did we get auto-opted into the Georgetown Law Journal? Do we still rank it or how does that actually work? (inaudible 14:10-14:11)

Anna: Yes. Okay. So the question is about auto-opting into Georgetown Law Journal. So, you don't need to rank it. You're automatically opted-in. It will look at Georgetown Law Journal first. It doesn’t impact any of your other preferences. So if, yeah-

Speaker 3: Sorry, I guess for follow-on, does that mean if we would rather have a different journal than Georgetown Law Journal? Is there a way to integrate that? Can you turn down Georgetown Law Journal?

Anna: Sadly? No. So the question is, can you turn down? So you can turn down Georgetown Law Journal, but you don't get another crack at another journal. So if you want to be on GLJ, I would say opt-in and that effectively becomes your first choice. Does that clarify?
Okay, good. Cause I know that can be confusing. So I promise, I don't mean to be picking on you.

All the way in the back over here.

Speaker 4: I'm just wondering, for planning out the summer, do you have an estimate on how many hours we should (inaudible 15:02-15:04).

Anna: Yes. So the question was the estimate on the hours for competing and thank you for asking, because I meant to mention that. You're given 14 days to compete and I am told (because I don't actually do the competition) that it actually takes between three and five days. So plenty of time. Some students prefer to do it so they factor in Memorial Day weekend or July 4th weekend because they already have that day off from work but totally up to you.

Yes. In the back as well.

Speaker 5: You mentioned that we may well wait until our grades come out to preference our journals. Is there any guide or general indication of which journals are more competitive or require higher grades?

Anna: Okay. So the question was, is there an indication of which journals might require higher grades? I would say take a look at the journals’ comparison chart and see how each journal weighs their grades. Some journals weigh grades more than others. And the advantage of having longer preference time, again, if you ended up getting higher grades than you thought, you may want to reconsider based on journals that consider grades higher. Does that help?

Perfect. Wait one more on the back.

Speaker 6: How long does it take to get the scores back on our case comment? (inaudible 16:12-16:14) trying to see that score (inaudible 16:15-16:16).

Anna: Right. So the question was, how long does it take to get the scores back? You don't actually get your scores back. Yes. So you have to preference it based on how you think you did. And that's just the timing of the competition too. We try to keep the competition open as long as possible, but we have to balance that with the early interview week because we want to give your results before that. Yeah. So that's the crap shoot with preferencing is you just have to kind of guess how you think you did on the materials. That's a good one.

In the back in the middle.

Speaker 7: So I may have heard you all but you said seven pages of text, three pages of endnotes.

Anna: Yes. The question.
Speaker 7: So, I mean that's not the format that we used in our class for either semester. So you expect to have to do a brand new format that they might not be familiar with?

Anna: Yep. So the question is, based on the seven pages of text and the three pages of endnotes and is that different from what you've done in legal writing? Yes, it is a slightly different format. That's why we offer the how to write a case comment session and those students will breakdown for you how long they think like the introduction should be and what a good roadmap to use is. So they will give you all of that information to help you formulate how to structure your paper.

Speaker 7: So who will do this one?

Anna: T how to write a case comment session that's on April 22nd? Yep. Three editors will give a presentation on that. And if you can't attend, it'll all be posted online along with the slide deck and the word file that accompanies it as well.

I thought there were other questions. Any other questions? Oh, sorry. This is like a french fry light here, so I'm kind of blinded.

Speaker 8: My question is on the case on the journal comparison chart, we have a column for number of issues for volume and we have a column for approximate total staff size. And my question is, is that like a rough guide to how much work we might be expected to do on different journals? Could I like divide the staff size by issues and what would a rough idea of how many people are assigned to issues?

Anna: Right. So the question was, can you figure out based on the staff size, how much work you might have to do? That's one way. My best advice there was we're going to have the editors that are outside is to ask them kind of what a typical journal week is because it's going to vary based on how each journal has their workflow set up.

Oh, perfect. Thanks.

Speaker 9: When do you find out the results (inaudible 18:54-18:55)?

Anna: So the question was, when do you find out results for journal? Our goal is to always get them out before Early Interview Week. We aim for the end of July. There's a lot of things that have to fall in place but that is always our goal because we know it's important for you to have that when you're meeting with firms.

Speaker 10: Hi. I heard some things about writing personal statements or personal diversity statements. Can you (inaudible 19:22-19:24)?

Anna: Yes, absolutely. The question was about writing personal statements and diversity statements. One, take a look at the comparison chart because it'll tell you what each journal requires. And if you look at the letters from the editors, which are posted online as well, that'll give you what we call prompts. It's what each journal has asked for in their personal statement. The nice thing is those are posted now. So if you want and we
recommend this, you can get started on those personal statements before the competition begins. You can start them now if you'd like. Pay close attention to what each journal asks for. If a journal does not ask for a resume, don't upload it. Because it says to them that you're not following the instructions. And again, those letters will pretty much outline if there's any technical requirements, length requirements, if they're looking for you to answer specific questions, the letters from the editor.

Yep. Do we have others? Did I get everybody? I'm not seeing anyone like wildly panicked, so okay. Well, if nobody has any more questions, you are obviously free to head out to Wednesday Wind Down. If you want to talk to either of us afterwards, we're happy to talk to you as well. Thank you in advance for coming. I know it's a nice day outside, so we very much appreciate it. Thank you.