Transfer Student Journal Writing Competition

Immediately prior to the start of the fall semester, the ten academic journals at NYU Law will conduct a writing competition to select Staff Editors from amongst the transfer student class. We have prepared this information sheet in the hopes of making the competition as straightforward as possible.

What are the journals?
There are ten journals at NYU Law. All accept members <i>exclusively</i> through the Journal Writing Competition. You can find a list of the journals (and links to their websites) below:

- Annual Survey of American Law
- Environmental Law Journal
- Journal of Intellectual Property & Entertainment Law
- Journal of International Law and Politics
- Journal of Law & Business
- Journal of Law & Liberty
- Journal of Legislation and Public Policy
- Law Review
- Moot Court Board
- Review of Law and Social Change

How does the Writing Competition work?
All transfer students who wish to join a journal must take part in the Transfer Journal Writing Competition. The Competition requires you to submit (via an online system):

1. A short (1,500 word) Comment where you critically discuss a selection of sources in a 100-page closed universe packet, unless you are applying only to the Moot Court Board,
2. If you are applying to the Moot Court Board, a brief you wrote during your 1L year,
3. A 500-word personal statement, tailored for each journal to which you wish to apply,
4. A Bluebooking test, where you must correct several hypothetical law review footnotes,
5. Your resume, and,
6. A rank-order list of the journals to which you want to apply.

Your Writing Competition entries are then assessed separately by each journal to which you have applied. Each journal creates its own ranking of the people who ranked them. The Journal Matching System then “matches” applicants to journals using the same algorithm used to conduct the National Medical Residency Match. Each journal takes a different number of transfer student staff editors, but the range is typically between three and seven per journal.
The Match system will assign you to a Staff Editor position at precisely one journal only. To rank a journal is to make a **binding commitment that you will accept an offer from that journal**. While you should rank as many journals as you have interest in joining, you should **not** rank a journal that you would not be content to join as a Staff Editor.

**What is the Competition schedule?**

- **Monday, August 8** – Transfer students will be able to log into the Journal Matching System [https://its.law.nyu.edu/jms/](https://its.law.nyu.edu/jms/) and acquire a “JMS Number.” You will use this number rather than your name for all writing competition entries.

- **Friday, August 12 @ 12:01 a.m. EST** – Transfers will be able to download the **Writing Competition Packet** and begin working on the Competition.

- **Friday, August 19 @ 5:00 p.m. EST** – **All Competition materials are due.** There are no extensions possible, because the Competition must be graded within 72 hours. This means you have one week to complete the competition.

- **Tuesday, August 23** – Students will be notified about the outcome of the JMS matching.

- **Saturday, August 27, Sunday, August 28, or Tuesday, August 30** – Journals will host individual Orientation programs.

**What should I do to prepare for the Competition?**

There are a few things you can do now:

1. **Hold off on scheduling anything on August 27, August 28, or August 30 until you learn about the outcome of the Writing Competition.** If invited to join a journal, you will likely need to attend a Journal Orientation.

2. **Learn about each journal** to decide which you would like to apply to and rank them accordingly.

3. **Format your resume to fit the “NYU Format.”** See the Career Services handbook for more details. Many of you have done this already for EIW. NYU Format resumes invariably do better in the Competition than resumes in other formats.


5. **Start working on…**
   a. **Your personal statements!** Getting the personal statements out of the way before the Competition begins will allow you to spend the week focusing on your Comment and the Bluebook test.
   b. **Your Moot Court Brief!** If you are applying to the Moot Court Board, the standards the MCB uses to assess the brief are already available at [http://www.nyumootcourt.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/lawyeringbriefs.pdf](http://www.nyumootcourt.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/lawyeringbriefs.pdf). This is also something you can get out of the way early.
What version of the Bluebook will the Competition use?

This all sounds like a lot of work. Why should I take part in the Competition?
Because the competition is your only entry point to one of NYU Law’s academic journals! Being on an academic journal is one of the most rewarding parts of being at NYU. First, journals provide you with lots of useful writing, editorial, and leadership experience looked on favorably by judges and employers. Second, journals serve as social organizations that help connect you to the law student community at NYU (especially helpful for transfer students). Many NYU Law students look back on their journal experience as one of their fondest law school memories.

How can I maximize my chances of being matched?
By ranking multiple journals (try to rank at least three). While you should only rank journals you would be content to join, do not automatically rule out a particular journal without giving them a good look. Every journal at NYU offers extensive writing and research skill development, and each journal has a variety of special features and programs that you may find attractive.

Who can I contact for more information?
For information about the writing competition itself, contact Carmi Schickler, Writing Competition Student Chair at ces577@nyu.edu or Israel Rodriguez, Director of Student Affairs at israel.rodriguez@nyu.edu.

The Writing Competition Packet (to be released on Friday, August 12) will contain all the information you will need to complete the Competition!

We look forward to reading your submission.