2025 Summer Candidacy Program

Chicago-Kent Law Review

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What is Law Review?

- Chicago-Kent's Flagship Legal Journal

    - Regularly publish articles by legal scholars, practicing attorneys, and law students.

    - Membership is an indication of extraordinary academic accomplishment.

    - It assures strong legal reasoning, persuasive writing, and eagle-eyed proofreading.

- Symposium Format

    - Typically, we work with a panel of authors assembled by a symposium editor to publish a set of articles on a single legal topic or theme.

    - Usually contains 10 to 12 articles, page range varies per article.

    - Currently, we publish one (1) volume with two (2) issues each year.

    - Generally, we do not publish unsolicited articles.

Eligibility for "Grade On"

- "Grade On":
  - Students who have completed only one (1) academic year as full-time Day Division students who rank in the top 7% of the full-time Day Division class (not divided into sections).

  - Students who have completed only one (1) academic year as part-time Day Division students or as Evening Division students who rank in the top 7% of the combined part-time Day Division and Evening Division class.

  - Students who have completed at least one (1) academic year, but not more than two (2) academic years, as part-time Day Division students or as Evening Division students who rank within the top 7% of the combined class comprised of first-year full-time Day Division students, second-year part-time Day Division students, and second-year Evening Division students.

- See Student Handbook § 1.12 (Law Review Eligibility) for further details.

Eligibility for "Write On"

- "Write On":
    - Participate in the Summer Candidacy Program
        - More details on this shortly

    - All students who have completed at least one (1) academic year at Chicago-Kent are eligible to participate.

    - No student may participate in the Summer Candidacy Program unless he or she will be in residence at Chicago-Kent for at least two (2) full semesters following that Summer.

    - Students who will not be in Chicago during the Summer of their eligibility may still participate in the program, but should contact the Executive Board as soon as possible after the program dates are announced to make the necessary arrangements.

- See Student Handbook § 1.12 (Law Review Eligibility) for further details.

Eligibility Continued...

- ***IMPORTANT!!***
  - First-year rankings <u>likely will not</u> be available prior to the start of the write-on process.
  - Everyone interested in Law Review <u>should complete</u> the Summer Candidacy Program/Write-On.
- For purposes of "Grade On" or "Write On" eligibility, "completing" an academic year means that a student earned sufficient credit to be ranked with the corresponding Day/Evening Divisions combined class for the student's particular graduation year.
- Class rank and graduation year information is determined by the Registrar.
- Feedback cannot be provided on prior Write-On submissions.
- Other considerations:
  - See Student Handbook § 2.1 (Maximum Credit Hours)
  - See Student Handbook § 2.4 (Pass/Fail Election)

Junior Associate (JA) Duties/Expectations

- Proofread, edit, and cite-check all assigned articles to conform to the Bluebook standards.
  - Usually, three (3) times during the academic year; two (2) in the fall and one (1) in the spring (subject to change).

- Complete all above assignments in accordance with Law Review deadlines.
  - Gathering original source material.
  - Confirming source material supports assertions made by the author.
  - Ensuring all citations follow Bluebook.
  - Report directly to your assigned Executive Articles Editor (EAE).

- Author a student Note through the Student Writing Process
  - You select the legal topic of interest to you.
  - At least two (2) distinct deadline schedules.
  - Complete a scholarly piece of writing (25 page minimum)
  - For guidance and substantive edits through the Note-writing process, you will be assigned a Notes and Comment Editor (NCE) and must select your preferred Faculty Advisor.
- Serve for a term of one (1) academic year.
- Volunteer at in-person or virtual Symposium(s).

JA Benefits

- Obtain valuable *Bluebook* experience

- Opportunity for your student Note to be published

- Develop your research/writing skills

- Network & Mentorship

- LW4 requirement may be waived by taking a LW4 Equivalency Class
  - See Student Handbook § 1.4 (Legal Writing 4 Waiver) for details.

- Receive one (1) credit hour per semester, reduce course load
  - See Student Handbook § 2.5 (Law Review and Moot Court Credit Hour Limitation) for details.

- After one (1) year term is over, you have an option to apply for an Executive Board or Senior Staff position.

Managing Law Review

- Managing your time
  - Essential to meet deadlines, especially since these dates will be set far in advance
- Communication with Law Review team
  - Teams of EAE, NCE, SAs, & JAs
- Quality over quantity
  - Know yourself
  - Work completed reflects future roles in high level Law Review positions

What is the Write-On

- Academic note/comment written in response to a specific question or prompt included in the Summer Candidacy Program ("SCP") packet.
- 15-page maximum (not including endnotes).
- "Closed Universe" – only the sources provided in the SCP packet may be used.
- Work must be completely your own. Absolutely no collaboration or use of generative AI allowed.
- Completely anonymous scoring and selection using your candidate Exam Numbers, not names. **You must request an exam number to participate. See next slide.**

Write-On Timeline

- **Saturday, May 17 at 9:00am –** SCP Packet will go live on our website.

- **Sunday, May 18 at 11:59pm –** this is the last day to request a Candidate Exam Number from the coordinator.
    - Requesting this number **does not commit you** to submitting. Request an exam number even if you are only slightly sure you want to participate. Just don't submit your comment if you end up deciding to drop out of the write-on.

- **Wednesday, May 28 at 11:59pm –** All SCP submissions are due. No late submissions will be accepted.

- **Mid-June –** invitations to the Law Review will go out.

Preparing for the Write-On

- **Request an Exam Number (Mandatory)**
  - Email Alex Magalli, a.magalli@gmail.com , to request your number. **Important: do not email his CKent email, it has to be the address here.** Example: "Hi, my name is X. I'd like to request an exam number for the law review write-on." This candidate number is used to anonymize your submission.

- **Attend our Bluebooking session (Strongly recommended)**
  - Citations are **IMPORTANT**!
  - Familiarize yourself with the organization and structure of *The Bluebook*
  - Ensure you have access to a current edition of *The Bluebook* (basically mandatory)
    - Online access
    - Twenty-First Edition

- **Review Reference Materials on Chicago Kent Law Review Website (Strongly recommended).**
  - See sample successful notes.
  - Read a guide for how to write a comment.
  - Review the SCP instruction manual for details (including formatting requirements).

Writing Your Submission

- Start by reading the entire packet of source materials ***all the way through*** **with the question or prompt in mind**
  - Highlight and take notes as you read using a system that works for you
  - As you read, begin developing a **thesis that responds to the prompt** and be open to **reworking** it as you read through the materials
  - Spend time re-reading portions of the materials that you identified as important

- Think about possibly creating an **initial outline** to structure and organize your thoughts
  - The structure of your submission will depend on your thesis and analysis but *generally*, submissions contain an introduction, objective portion (background), analytical portion, and a conclusion
    - The **<u>analytical portion should be the main focus</u>** of your submission

Writing Your Submission

- Try to begin writing your first draft as early as possible
- Once you have a first draft, you can begin improving your **analysis**
  - Present and defend your thesis
  - Focus on making your analysis **more persuasive**
    - Use the sources to support or differentiate your argument
  - Address and refute potential counterarguments
  - Identify and fill in any gaps in your reasoning
- As you near the end of the writing process and have refined your analysis, start focusing on **style and readability**
- Implement Formatting Requirements
- Ensure your citations comply with Bluebook standards for endnotes.
- Proofread, Proofread, Proofread!

Writing Your Submission

- Do not plagiarise

  - Plagiarism violation may result in expulsion from Law Review, and/or a referral to the faculty disciplinary committee

- Using artificial intelligence will disqualify you from Law Review

  - See Student Handbook §2-1: Academic Misconduct

- Do not use other writing aids or outside sources (i.e., case briefs, Lexis AI, third parties, other people who are writing on).

General Tips

- Try to set **internal deadlines** for yourself to stay on track
- Break up your process into manageable portions
  - Read the packet through/take notes
  - Write an introduction
  - Organize
- Cite as you write
- Consult the Reference Materials on the Law Review website that discuss wording and phrasing for style and readability
- Proofread ***several* times**
- Do your best & don't stress - you can do this!

Stay Up To Date

- Check our website for up-to-date information about Law Review and the Write-On Program.

- Guidelines, information, and the packet will all be posted on the Website.

https://studentorgs.kentlaw.iit.edu/cklawreview/