

Law Journals at the University of Minnesota Law School

It's time to start thinking about the journal petitioning process! The Law Journal Petition Committee would like to encourage everyone who is interested in becoming a journal staff member to submit a petition. To that end, we are circulating this explanation of the petition process. All journals select their staff members during the summer through a single petition process. Petitioners write one petition and submit it to as many journals as they want, ranking the journals according to preference.

The petition includes a **case comment (70% of the petition score)** and a **Bluebook exercise (30% of the petition score)**. The case comment is a twenty-page written submission (ten pages of text; ten pages of footnotes) based on a recently decided case. The case and all supplemental materials that you may use to write your petition will be provided to you. Each journal extends offers based on its own criteria, which may include personal statements and grades in addition to the combined petition score. We encourage you to apply to all the journals that interest you.

We will host numerous events throughout the semester to prepare students for the petition period. For students unable to attend these sessions, we will post recordings and/or handouts on the *Minnesota Law Review* website, <http://www.minnesotalawreview.org/about/membership/>. Dual degree students, transfer students, and 1Ls who are unable to attend are encouraged to review the materials online.

Students requiring accessible text materials or other accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center to make their request. They can be reached by e-mail at drclaw@umn.edu, or by calling (612) 626-1333. Students requesting accommodations are encouraged to make their request by **April 9, 2018**, to ensure materials are converted and provided in an appropriate form and timely manner. A general overview of the Law School's Disability Accommodation process is summarized under 'Disability Accommodations' on the Student Support Resources webpage, <https://www.law.umn.edu/current-students/student-orgs-leadership/support-resources>.

Dates & Contact Information for the 2018 Petition Process

- All Journal Reception:** Monday, April 2, 2018 4:00 – 6:00 PM, Spannus Commons
- Petition 101:** Monday, April 9, 2018, 12:15 – 1:15 PM, Room 25
- Bluebooking Breakout Sessions:** April 12, 16, 18, 19, 2018, 12:15 – 1:15 PM, Room 65 (see 1L Calendar)
- Petition Preparation & Strategy Session:** Monday, April 16, 2018, 4:00 – 6:00 PM, Room 25
- WLSA Bluebooking Session:** Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 12:15 – 1:15 PM, Room 40
- Petition Period:** Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 4:30PM – Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 4:30 PM.
 - o **IMPORTANT:** Students may pick up the petition after 4:30PM on May 8th (during the times that the office is open which will be posted prior to the period), and will have *either* two weeks from the pick-up date to submit the completed comment and Bluebook exercise *or* until May 29 at 4:30 PM, *whichever is earlier*.
- Offers Extended:** The week of June 25, 2018.

Questions during the Petition Period? mnpetitionquestions@gmail.com

Additional information is posted on the *Minnesota Law Review* website:

<http://www.minnesotalawreview.org/content/membership>

Law & Inequality: A Journal of Theory & Practice

Law & Inequality: A Journal of Theory & Practice will select approximately 20-25 staff members.

Selection Criteria: All positions: 70% Petition; 30% Personal Statement

About the Journal: *Law & Inequality* was founded in 1981 under the direction of Professor Catharine MacKinnon to examine the social impact of law on marginalized segments of society, becoming the law school's second journal and filling a void in legal scholarship at the time. The Journal publishes two issues annually and brings in high-quality scholarship from a broad spectrum of disciplines, providing the intellectual insight and practical depth necessary for a true understanding of inequality. All published articles share a nexus between law and inequality, though the subject matter is diverse. Articles focus on race, poverty, sexual orientation, gender, national origin, age, disability and other unique issues of inequality. Journal articles can be social, empirical, doctrinal, experiential, literary, or community-based. *Law & Inequality* ranks nationally among law journals for scholarly impact in the areas of immigration law (#1), family law (#1), civil rights (#3), minority, race and ethnic issues (#3), criminal law and procedure (#7), gender and sexuality (#7), and public policy (#20), based on the Washington and Lee University law journal rankings. The Journal also has a new online publication, *Sua Sponte*, in which staff members may have the opportunity to publish.

Personal Statements: The personal statement is an important factor in selecting each staff member. Statements should reflect interests, experiences, and perspectives on issues concerning law and inequality in its various forms. While it is not required that you have personal experience with the effects of inequality, we are looking for students who demonstrate an awareness of current inequality issues and who can articulate how these issues affect others. *Law & Inequality* strives to be a welcoming journal that is diverse in thought and experience. Your personal statement must be between one and three pages in length, double-spaced, and in 12-point font. We will evaluate personal statements based on both content and style.

If you have any questions, you may contact Alicia Granse, Editor-in-Chief (grans014@umn.edu) or Alex Lane, Executive Editor (alexa676@umn.edu).

The Minnesota Journal of International Law

The Minnesota Journal of International Law will select up to 25 Staff Members (with up to 3 positions for transfer students and/or rising 3Ls).

Selection Criteria: All positions: 75% petition; 15% grades*; 10% personal statement
*Grades will not be considered for rising 3Ls or Transfers; instead, the 15% weight given to grades will shift to the petition portion.

About us: The *Minnesota Journal of International Law* aspires to be a national leader in the multidisciplinary study of international & comparative law. Our journal publishes scholarly articles covering a range of topics including politics and international relations, economics and

trade, intellectual property, human rights, comparative law, inter-governmental organizations, and environmental law.

Personal Statement: We will evaluate personal statements based on content and style. The statement should be no more than one to two pages in length, double-spaced. The statement should discuss your interest in international law with specific focus on trade, economics, human rights, the environment, politics, or other areas. It should also describe any experiences that helped you develop that interest or any career goals you have pertaining to such interest. Please also explain how you will make a good addition to our team and *Journal* community. The *Minnesota Journal of International Law* is always interested in members who bring diverse ideas and experiences to our staff.

If you have any questions, please contact Editor-in-Chief Emily Ortlieb (ortli009@umn.edu), Executive Editor Robby Dube (dubex029@umn.edu), or Lead Articles Editor Ian Taylor (tayl0798@umn.edu).

The Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology

The Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology (MJLST) will select up to 22 staff members (with up to 3 positions for transfer student applicants and rising 3Ls).

Selection Criteria: 16 positions: 80% petition, 20% personal statement
6 positions: 80% petition, 10% personal statement, 10% grades*

*Transfer and 2L student grades will not be applied to the score for the grade-based positions; however, these applications will still be eligible for these positions.

About the Journal: The Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology is a cutting-edge multidisciplinary journal focusing on the intersection of law with STEM disciplines. Prospective staffers are not required to have any previous science or technology background to join our publication, but an interest in issues relevant to law, science and technology is required. The journal is edited by law students with the support of a Faculty Editorial Advisory Board drawn from across the University of Minnesota. MJLST staffers have the opportunity to publish commentary on current law, science, and technology issues on an ongoing basis through the journal's LawSci blog. Currently ranked #9 on ExpressO's (a leading law review manuscript submission service) list of the most popular science and technology-focused journals, MJLST is an influential publication in its field. MJLST is also ranked by Washington & Lee as the #1 journal for energy law, #4 for environmental law, #3 for health, medicine, psychology & psychiatry law, #8 for science, technology and computing law, and #10 for intellectual property law.

Personal Statements: MJLST will read personal statements for both style and content. Personal statements should be one to two pages long, double-spaced. In the past, students have come to the journal with both technical and non-technical backgrounds. Regardless of educational background, however, all members of MJLST have an interest in how the law relates to issues

of science and technology. In their personal statement, applicants should highlight their background in science, health and medicine, or technology (e.g. an undergraduate or graduate degree or relevant work background) and/or interest in law and science (e.g. a plan to pursue a joint degree; and interest in bioethics, the environment, or technology; relevant volunteer experience). We are interested in members who can contribute to the journal by providing new perspective from a variety of interests and life experiences. Most importantly, we look for a willingness to engage in the dynamic nexus of law, science, and technology, even if it is for the first time.

For further information or any questions about MJLST, please contact Editor in Chief Ellen Levis (levis016@umn.edu) or Executive Editor Zach Sibley (sible019@umn.edu).

Minnesota Law Review

Minnesota Law Review will select 39 staff members, up to 2 of whom may be rising 3L applicants.

Selection Criteria: 21 positions: 100% petition
9 positions: 75% petition; 25% personal statement
9 positions: 50% petition; 50% grades (1L petitioners only)

About the Journal: *Minnesota Law Review* is one of the preeminent general interest law journals in the country—consistently ranked among the top 14 nationally. We publish six issues per year, reflecting a broad array of scholarship. Staffers are able to write student notes on any legal topic. We also look forward to next year’s symposium, entitled “Recession in Retrospect: The State of Consumer Protection 10 Years Since the 2008 Financial Crisis.”

Personal Statements: Diversity of thought, experience, and perspective is essential in crafting a balanced publication. Without appreciating and exploring different ways of living and thinking, we cannot hope to develop legal scholarship alongside our evolving world. *Minnesota Law Review* utilizes personal statements to evaluate these qualities in petitioners, particularly because they are not as evident from the other portions of the petition. Personal statements may reflect an experience, multiple experiences, or a general background that has prepared the petitioner to be a positive addition to *Minnesota Law Review*. The nature of the experience(s) can vary greatly. Examples include personal experiences—like traveling or living abroad, dealing with issues of identity, or growing up in unique circumstances—and practical experiences—like working as a newspaper editor or starting an organization or business. Regardless of the topic, it is critical that the petitioner clearly explain how the experience(s) shaped or changed the way they view the world, and then make a connection between the experience(s) and their qualifications to be a *Minnesota Law Review* staffer.

Minnesota Law Review will evaluate personal statements based on both content and style. We will also be scoring personal statements based on writing competency, grammar, and spelling. The statement should be no more than 500 words (double-spaced). Students petitioning for *Minnesota Law Review* are not required to submit a personal statement. Declining to submit a personal

statement will, however, disqualify you from consideration for those positions that take the personal statements into account.

New staffers must be on campus for both semesters of their first year on *Minnesota Law Review*, and must return to campus for Law Review Orientation, which is typically held during the week before classes begin.

For more information about *Minnesota Law Review*, please contact Editor-in-Chief Tony Ufkin (ufkin001@umn.edu). For more information about *Minnesota Law Review* or the petition process, please contact Managing & Research Editors Derek Waller (walle218@umn.edu) and Julia Wolfe (wolfe431@umn.edu).