



MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW

MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW VOL. 113 (2014–15) WRITE-ON POLICY

MLR allows current Michigan Law students to become Associate Editors by publishing a Note through the Write-On process.

(1) Eligibility

- (a) A Write-On applicant must be currently enrolled for credit at Michigan Law School.
- (b) Any student may submit a Note for publication in *MLR*. The Note author is eligible for *MLR* membership if the Note is selected for publication while the applicant has at least two full semesters remaining at the Law School to perform AE duties.
- (c) Applicants may be members of other journals during the Write-On process. If an applicant accepts an AE position on *MLR*, the applicant must resign from any other journal. A candidate need not have participated in the Writing Competition to be eligible for *MLR* membership through the Write-On process.

(2) Note Requirements

A Note is a student-written work that identifies an unresolved legal issue and argues for a unique solution. A good Note should achieve the following three goals:

- (a) Identify an unresolved legal controversy or question;
- (b) Analyze the possible means for addressing the controversy, elaborating the arguments on all sides of the debate; and
- (c) Argue for a unique solution that, if adopted, would resolve the current legal dispute or uncertainty.

Moreover, a viable Note will also have some practical constraints. It must be narrow enough to allow for careful, thorough analysis within twenty-five to forty-five double-spaced pages, including footnotes. The Note must document ample authority to support the argument.

A Note must be entirely the author's own work. It may not be a paper written for credit unless the credit was received for independent study. The Note may not have been originally written to fulfill another journal's writing requirement. Neither a Comment, Book Notice, nor *First Impressions Essay* qualifies as a Note. It may not be a piece that has been edited by another journal. *MLR* encourages applicants, however, to seek help from faculty members.

Each year the Notes Office publishes *The Redbook*, which sets forth *MLR*'s expectations for Note content, format, and style. The Notes Office strongly recommends that Write-On applicants refer to *The Redbook* prior to submitting their Notes. Students may access *The Redbook* at www.michiganlawreview.org, or request a copy by emailing mlr.ene@umich.edu.

(3) The Write-On Process

Notes are solicited for publication through a “Call for Submissions” (“Call”) format. Each *MLR* issue will have a Call deadline. Notes for publication in each issue will be selected from those submitted for the Call. All Calls are open to *MLR* members and Write-On applicants who satisfy the eligibility requirements outlined in Section I.

Although there is no set number of Notes that *MLR* accepts for publication, approximately fourteen Notes are published in each volume. *MLR* typically publishes two Notes per issue, with the exception of Issue 6, our annual Book Review issue, which does not contain any Articles or Notes.

Refer to www.michiganlawreview.org for Call Deadlines. Notes must be submitted to the Executive Notes Editor via email (mlr.ene@umich.edu) by 11:59 p.m. on the date of the Call deadline.

The Notes Office considers a Write-On applicant’s Note anonymously. The Executive Notes Editor will remove the student’s name from the draft before distributing it for evaluation. An applicant may submit only one Note to each Call. An applicant may submit to no more than two Calls. An applicant may submit the same Note twice, or may submit two different Notes. This limit applies across *MLR* volumes.

(4) Call Evaluation

The Notes Editors and the Managing Editor (the “Committee”) read all Call submissions and rank them based on readiness for publication. Notes considered ready for publication will comply with the guidelines set forth in *The Redbook*, with particular emphasis on the Readiness for Publication Checklist (included as an Appendix to *The Redbook*).

The Committee will not provide Write-On applicants with editorial assistance or offer advice about when an applicant should submit the Note. However, if the Committee does not accept the Note for publication, it will provide up to one page of general commentary summarizing its evaluation of the submission and suggesting improvements. Revising a Note in accordance with this commentary in no way guarantees its publication if submitted to a subsequent Call.

The Committee conducts a Full Read of all Notes that it preliminarily selects for publication. After the Full Read, the Notes Office will provide these authors with recommended and/or mandatory changes. Accepting these changes may be a condition for publication.

(5) *MLR* Membership

An applicant whose Note is approved for publication and who has two remaining full semesters at the Law School may choose to join *MLR*; if so, the new member enters as an AE. Applicants who become AEs commit to serving on *MLR* for at least two full semesters. Enrolled Michigan Law School students accepted as AEs will immediately assume AE responsibilities. If an applicant is accepted with more than two full semesters remaining, the new member will perform *MLR* duties until graduation. *MLR* members accepted through Write-On will not be required to perform *MLR* duties for more than two full Terms.

MLR will add the accepted applicant's name to the masthead for the *MLR* volume year in which the applicant serves as an AE.

Applicants with fewer than two remaining semesters at Michigan Law may publish a Note through the Write-On process but may not become members of *MLR*. As such, summer starters must submit *by the December Call* to become *MLR* members through the Write-On process.