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NOTES on "NOTES"

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**STUDENT PUBLICATION
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Yale Law Women creates student guides to facilitate collaborative learning, encourage transparency, and increase access to institutional knowledge. As such, this guide is for exclusive use by members of the Yale Law School community. Any external circulation or commercial uses are strictly prohibited.

Yale Law Women and *The Yale Law Journal* are pleased to bring you information about writing and publishing legal scholarship in Yale Law School's many academic journals. This Guide provides pointers on how to prepare a Note, a short-form student scholarship piece accepted by many of our journals. It also compiles information about the journals' respective guidelines for publishing student scholarship.

1. NOTES ON "NOTES"

What is a "Note"?

- ... a lengthy piece of *original* student-written work. Only J.D. students can publish Notes.
- ... an in-depth and reasonably comprehensive treatment of a topic of manageable scope.
- ... an original contribution to the literature – a new idea that is not pre-empted (already written about).
- ...an argument, not just a description.
- ...on a *legal* topic (this is less obvious than you might think).
- ...audience appropriate for the journal that publishes it: *YLJ* looks for pieces for a generalist audience, which means avoiding overly technical language or argument; more specialized journals may want more specialized pieces.
- ...not an SAW or Substantial, although many start out that way. Notes should not include lengthy literature reviews or simply describe an element of law. The Notes Committee often receives submissions that chiefly describe the relevant case law and then advance a creative new argument in a few pages at the end of the piece. The appropriate balance is the opposite: minimal description and review (roughly 25 percent), and mostly original argument (roughly 75 percent).
- ...generally around 45 to 48 double-spaced pages. *YLJ* has no minimum number of words, but has a soft cap of 15,000 words and hard cap of 17,500 words. Other journals have slightly different, but comparable requirements.

The *YLJ* Note publication process

- Notes are submitted in advance of drop dates. Different journals have different schedules. *YLJ* generally has several drop dates per school year: at least one in the fall and three or more in the spring.
- Notes are submitted online to yalelawjournal.org, alongside a submission form and a statement of originality.
- Notes are read by a committee of Notes Editors, who deliberate on and vote on every piece they receive.
- Notes are reviewed blind, and *YLJ* has a strict recusal policy, meaning that any Notes Editor who even suspects he or she knows who the author of piece is must recuse himself or himself. Therefore, **you should *not* discuss a possible Note topic with a Notes Editor**, as it is in your interest to have as many editors as possible eligible to vote on your piece.
- If your Note is not accepted, you will generally receive a revise and resubmit memo noting how many votes the piece received and describing how to make the piece better. Do **not** assume that a revise and resubmit means your piece is bad – many students receive revise and resubmit memos (sometimes more than one!), revise and resubmit their pieces, and ultimately publish with *YLJ*. Stick with the process! Authors who seriously consider and incorporate the Notes Committee’s feedback can dramatically increase their chances of acceptance.
- If your Note *is* accepted, it will go through a fairly lengthy editing process, including at least three rounds of revision with the *YLJ* team, when you’ll get in-depth feedback and work closely with editors to improve your piece and your writing.
- Students who are not members of *YLJ* who have Notes accepted prior to graduation will have the opportunity to join *YLJ* as full members – a nice perk!

Tips from YLJ and YLW for a successful Note

- **Run your pre-emption check FIRST.** There's nothing worse than investing time and energy only to find out that someone else already had your idea. Here's a helpful guide to pre-emption checking: <http://library.law.yale.edu/research/preemption-checking>.
- Take the Statement of Originality seriously. A Statement of Originality is a required additional document in which you must demonstrate that your Note is not preempted – i.e., that no one has made your central argument before – by carefully discussing existing literature on your topic. Submissions editors will typically read your Statement of Originality immediately before they read your Note. The Notes Committee has seldom, if ever, seen a Statement of Originality that is too long or too detailed. It is imperative that you do not merely list and acknowledge other scholarship in the same area. Instead, you must demonstrate in detail why your argument meaningfully differs from those of other scholars. The Statement of Originality is also a chance to argue for why your piece is important. If your Note is based on an SAW or Substantial, your literature review can be a great jumping-off point to show that you've done your research and really know your field.
- Write about something you care about. The Note process is long; make sure you won't lose excitement about the subject matter and its importance.
- Choose a topic of manageable scope. A Note that attempts to re-conceptualize an entire area of law may be too ambitious.
- Professors are great resources for exploring a topic, identifying resources, and discussing development. If you receive a revise and resubmit memo, consider approaching a faculty member who works on your topic for advice.
- If you have an idea you're thinking about, consider signing up for a **Notes Development Editor**. This person is a Notes Editor, recused from deliberating about your piece, who can be an invaluable resource in picking the right topic and preparing your piece for submission. Development Editors are a great resource, and pieces written with their assistance are often more polished and ready for publication. **Do not directly contact a Notes Editor**, as doing so would compromise your anonymity and therefore generate a mandatory recusal. Instead, to request a Development Editor, contact YLJ Managing Editor Xiao Linda Liu (xiao.liu@yale.edu) or, starting in February 2013, her successor. Development Editors are not assigned within 10 days of a drop date – get in early!

Other forms of student scholarship

A Note is not the only way to publish. Other forms of student scholarship have their own rules, processes, benefits, and drawbacks. Consider...

- Writing a Comment, which is a much shorter piece of student work. While only *Journal* editors were previously eligible to submit Comments to *YLJ*, *YLJ* recently experimented with inviting Comment submissions from all J.D. students at its two most recent drop dates. It will be up to the new editorial board whether to continue this practice when it assumes its responsibilities in the spring.
- *Yale Law Journal Online*, a high-profile online-only project of *YLJ* publishing original high-quality scholarship from both students and professors. *YLJO* looks for pieces that are concise and timely. Some specialized journals also have online components with original works, such as *Yale Law and Policy Review's Inter Alia*.
- Publishing a Note or article with a specialized journal. Yale's many specialized journals generally also accept student scholarship and can offer great opportunities and access to a different and often more relevant audience. However, specialized journals publish less often than *YLJ* and therefore generally accept fewer pieces per year and have fewer drop dates. See below for information on the publication guidelines of Yale Law School's specialized journals.

2. STUDENT PUBLICATION GUIDELINES

Yale Law Journal (YLJ)

<http://www.yalelawjournal.org>

YLJ accepts scholarship about any legal topic.

TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED					
	Y/N	Word Limit	Eligibility	Number accepted	Submissions Process
Notes	Y	15,000 word soft cap, 17,500 word hard cap, including footnotes	All YLS J.D. students	At least 8 per volume	Drop dates (at least three, beginning in February) through yalelawjournal.org
Comments	Y	3,500 word maximum (1,000 word proposals also accepted), including footnotes	All YLS J.D. candidates are currently eligible to submit on a provisional basis (the new editorial board will determine its policy going forward in February 2013)	At least 8 per volume	Drop dates (at least three, beginning in February) through yalelawjournal.org
Book Reviews	N				Not accepted unless through comments or online processes
Articles	N				Not accepted unless co-written with a non-student
Online Pieces	Y	1,500 to 6,000 words, not including footnotes	All YLS students	3-5 per year	Drop dates through yalelawjournal.org

Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal (YHRDLJ)

<http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/yhrdlj.htm>

YHRDLJ accepts student scholarship about human rights and development nationally and internationally.

TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED					
	Y/N	Word Limit	Eligibility	Number accepted	Submissions Process
Notes	Y	N/A	All YLS students	At least 1 per volume	Drop dates, by e-mail to Managing Editor
Comments	N				
Book Reviews	Y	Around 1,500 words	All YLS students	1 per volume	Rolling by e-mail to Managing Editor
Articles	N				
Online Pieces	N				

Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law, and Ethics (YJHPLE)

<http://www.yale.edu/yjhple/>

YJHPLE accepts student scholarship about issues at the intersection of law and medicine, health policy, and/or ethics.

TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED					
	Y/N	Word Limit	Eligibility	Number accepted	Submissions Process
Notes	Y	No official limit, but generally about 20,000 words including	All current law students (including non-YLS students) and law graduates who wrote Notes when they were	About 2 per year	Rolling submissions, by e-mail to yjhple.submissions@yale.edu or via ExpressO

		footnotes	law students		
Comments	Some-times	No official limit, generally about 3,500 words including footnotes	All current law students (including non-YLS students) and law graduates who wrote Notes when they were law students	At editors' discretion	Rolling submissions, by e-mail to yjhple.submissions@yale.edu or via ExpressO
Book Reviews	Some-times	No official limit, generally about 4,000 words including footnotes	All current law students (including non-YLS students) and law graduates who wrote Notes when they were law students	At editors' discretion	Rolling submissions, by e-mail to yjhple.submissions@yale.edu or via ExpressO
Articles	N				
Online Pieces	N				

Note: Students may contact Submissions Editors with questions at yjhple.submissions@yale.edu. They *must not*, however, contact Notes Submissions Editors with questions regarding their specific piece of scholarship as this will undermine the peer review process.

Yale Journal of International Law (YJIL)

<http://www.yjil.org/>

YJIL accepts student scholarship about international, transnational, and comparative law.

TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED					
	Y/N	Word Limit	Eligibility	Number accepted	Submissions Process
Notes	Y	17,500 words	All YLS students	2 per volume	Drop dates, online or by e-mail to YJIL.notes@yale.edu
Comments	Y	5,000 words	All YLS students	2 per volume	Drop dates, online or by e-mail to YJIL.notes@yale.edu
Book Reviews	Y	2,000 words	YJIL members only	15-20 per volume	Must request from Book Reviews Editor
Articles	N				
Online Pieces	Y	5,000 words	All YLS students, non-YLS students	3-6 per year	Rolling, online or by e-mail to YJIL.notes@yale.edu

Yale Journal of Law and Feminism (YJLF)

<http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/YJLF.htm>

YJLF accepts student scholarship about the ways in which law intersects with sex, gender, race, class, and other aspects of human identity.

TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED					
	Y/N	Word Limit	Eligibility	Number accepted	Submissions Process
Notes	Y	10,000 to 15,000 words including footnotes	All YLS students	Generally 1 per volume	To submit a piece, email lawfemnotes@gmail.com with 1) a cover sheet including your name, title of the piece, abstract, and word count, and 2) a version of the piece that has been cleaned of your name or any identifying characteristics
Comments	Y	3,000 to 4,000 words including footnotes	All YLS students	At editors' discretion	To submit a piece, email lawfemnotes@gmail.com with 1) a cover sheet including your name, title of the piece, abstract, and word count, and 2) a version of the piece that has been cleaned of your name or any identifying characteristics
Book Reviews	Y	N/A	All YLS students	At editors' discretion	To submit a piece, email lawfemnotes@gmail.com with 1) a cover sheet including your name, title of the piece, abstract, and word count, and 2) a version of the piece that has been cleaned of your name or any identifying characteristics
Articles	Y	N/A	All YLS students	At editors' discretion	To submit a piece, email lawfemnotes@gmail.com with 1) a cover sheet including your name, title of the piece,

					abstract, and word count, and 2) a version of the piece that has been cleaned of your name or any identifying characteristics
Online Pieces	N				

Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities (YJLH)

<http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/yjlh.htm>

YJLH accepts student scholarship about any subject concerning law and the humanities (broadly construed).

TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED					
	Y/N	Word Limit	Eligibility	Number accepted	Submissions Process
Notes	Y	None, prefer under 15,000 words	All YLS students	2 per volume	Drop dates, by e-mail to yjlh.note.submissions@gmail.com
Comments	N				
Book Reviews	N				
Articles	N				
Online Pieces	N				

Yale Journal of Law and Technology (YJoLT)

<http://www.yjolt.org/>

YJoLT accepts student scholarship about issues at the intersection of law and technology.

TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED					
	Y/N	Word Limit	Eligibility	Number accepted	Submissions Process
Notes	N				
Comments	N				
Book Reviews	Y	500-word proposals	All YLS students	At editors' discretion	Drop dates, via e-mail to Managing Editor
Articles	Y	10,000 to 25,000 words	All YLS students	At editors' discretion	Rolling submissions, via e-mail to Managing Editor
Online Pieces	Y: blog posts	N/A	All YLS students	At editors' discretion	Rolling submissions, via ExpressO

Yale Journal on Regulation (JREG)

<http://yale-jreg.org/>

JREG accept student scholarship about any topic concerning regulation.

TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED					
	Y/N	Word Limit	Eligibility	Number accepted	Submissions Process
Notes	Y	Roughly 15,000 words	All YLS students	2 per volume	Drop dates (two per volume, generally in May and November)
Comments	Y	Roughly 3,500 words	All YLS students	2 per volume	Drop dates (two per volume, generally in May and November)
Book Reviews	Not generally				
Articles	N				
Online Pieces	Y	Roughly 2,500 words	All YLS students	Ongoing	Drop dates are continuous and students should submit their online pieces by email to Managing Editor

Yale Law and Policy Review (YLPR)

<http://yalelawandpolicy.org/>

YLPR accepts student scholarship about any topic at the intersection of law and policy.

TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED					
	Y/N	Word Limit	Eligibility	Number accepted	Submissions Process
Notes	Y	17,500 words including footnotes	All current YLS students	Up to 2 per issue (4 per volume)	Drop dates (generally two per volume, late fall and late spring) by e-mail to Managing Editor
Comments	Y	3,000 words, excluding footnotes (500-word proposals also accepted)	All current YLS students	At editors' discretion	Drop dates (generally two per volume, late fall and late spring) by e-mail to Managing Editor
Book Reviews	Y	2,500 to 3,000 words, excluding footnotes (500-word proposals also accepted)	All current YLS students	At editors' discretion	Fixed drop dates (generally two per volume, late fall and late spring) by e-mail to Managing Editor
Articles	N				
Online Pieces	Y	5,000 words including footnotes (500-word proposals also accepted)	All current YLS students	At editors' discretion	Rolling, by e-mail to Managing Editor

Yale Law Women and Yale Law Journal are here to support and assist you throughout the publication process! For more information about our resources, contact:
 YLW Scholarship Chair Canel Trouillot '14 (canel.trouillot@yale.edu) or
 YLJ Managing Editor Xiao Linda Liu '13 (xiao.liu@yale.edu).