



# The Yale Law Journal

## VOLUME 130 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The *Yale Law Journal* invites the submission of unsolicited Articles, Essays, Features, Book Reviews, and *Yale Law Journal Forum* Essays and Responses via our online submission system. The submissions system allows authors to track the progress of pieces and to immediately notify editors of any expedite requests. We do not accept pieces forwarded from services such as ExpressO. Please email us at [submissions@yalelawjournal.org](mailto:submissions@yalelawjournal.org) if you encounter any problems using our online interface.

### **I. Timing Your Submissions to the *Journal* and Other Publications**

**Exclusive Submission:** We consider each manuscript we receive using an extensive review process, which can take several weeks. In the past, some authors have been faced with the uncomfortable pressure of having to make a decision about an offer from another journal before we were able to complete our review process. The best way to avoid this situation is to allow the *Journal* time to review your piece. **We encourage you to submit your piece to us exclusively for ten days.** Authors submitting to us on an exclusive basis should use the prompts on our online submission system to indicate the date on which they will send their piece to other journals.

**Expedite Requests:** If you have received an offer of publication from another journal, please request expedited review of your submission via your author submissions account (<http://ylj.yalelawjournal.org/authors/index.html>), and our editors will be immediately notified of your deadline. If you are confronted with an imminent deadline, please also email [submissions@yalelawjournal.org](mailto:submissions@yalelawjournal.org). **The vast majority of the pieces we have accepted in recent volumes have not been expedited, and expedited review provides your piece with no competitive advantage in our process. In fact, it may disadvantage your piece insofar as it inhibits us from completing our extensive review process.** To avoid this problem, we again encourage you to submit to us on an exclusive basis for a limited time period.

### **II. Forms of Scholarship**

The *Journal* publishes Articles, Essays, Features, and Book Reviews. We also accept pieces for publication in the *YLJ Forum*.

**Articles and Essays:** The division between Articles and Essays is not rigid, but it helps our readers to distinguish between longer, more systematic pieces and shorter, more exploratory ones. Articles devote substantial space to situating themselves within existing research, and they often frame their arguments as comprehensive analyses of a given subject. On the other hand, Essays are often narrower in scope than Articles, but the subject matter is of general scholarly interest. Essays may experiment with style, tone, and voice. The ultimate goal of an Essay is to

start a new and interesting scholarly conversation and can offer a more tentative conclusion than an Article. Recent examples of successful Essays include Stephen E. Sachs, *Originalism Without Text*, 127 YALE L.J. 156 (2017); Monica C. Bell, *Police Reform and the Dismantling of Legal Estrangement*, 126 YALE L.J. 2054 (2017); Sarah A. Seo, *The New Public*, 125 YALE L.J. 1616 (2016); and Saul Levmore & Ariel Porat, *Asymmetries and Incentives in Plea Bargaining and Evidence Production*, 122 YALE L.J. 690 (2012). You may submit your piece as either an Essay or an Article to help us more accurately assess your piece. However, our editors may consider each submission for both categories unless you request that we not do so.

**Book Reviews:** The *Journal* also invites and encourages scholars and practitioners to submit reviews of books that are forthcoming or that have been published within the past eighteen months. We prefer reviews of books that have not yet been discussed extensively elsewhere. Examples from recent issues of the *Journal* include Rebecca Goldstein, *The Politics of Decarceration*, 129 YALE L.J. 446 (2019) (reviewing RACHEL ELISE BARKOW, PRISONERS OF POLITICS: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF MASS INCARCERATION (2019)); Michele Goodwin & Erwin Chemerinsky, *Pregnancy, Poverty, and the State*, 127 YALE L.J. 1270 (2018) (reviewing KHIARA M. BRIDGES, THE POVERTY OF PRIVACY RIGHTS (2017)); and Anita S. Krishnakumar, *How Long Is History's Shadow?*, 127 YALE L.J. 880 (2018) (reviewing JOSH CHAFETZ, CONGRESS'S CONSTITUTION: LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND THE SEPARATION OF POWERS (2017)).

**Features:** The *Journal* also invites authors to submit essays and essay proposals to be published as Features. In addition to starting a new conversation, Features address issues of general scholarly interest that are particularly timely and may be exploratory. Features proposals should lay out the overall thesis, structure, and main arguments of the proposed piece, as well as the nature of the essay's contribution to legal scholarship. Examples from recent issues of the *Journal* include [Daniel Epps](#) & [Ganesh Sitaraman](#), *How to Save the Supreme Court*, 129 YALE L.J. 1 (2019) and Bradley A. Areheart & Jessica L. Roberts, *GINA, Big Data, and the Future of Employee Privacy*, 128 YALE L.J. 544 (2019).

**YLJ Forum:** The *YLJ Forum* seeks scholarship that is shorter, timelier, and more accessible to a general audience than pieces published in the print pages of the *Journal*. Students, faculty, and practitioners are welcome to submit work to *Forum* and should consult the separate *Forum* Submission Guidelines for additional guidance.

### III. Requirements for the Content of Submissions

**Length:** We are committed to publishing work that is concise and readable. Our length guidelines are as follows:

- For Articles, we strongly encourage submissions of **fewer than 25,000 words, including footnotes** (roughly fifty *Journal* pages).
- For Essays, we strongly encourage submissions of **fewer than 15,000 words, including footnotes** (roughly thirty *Journal* pages).
- For Features, we strongly encourage full submissions of **fewer than 15,000 words**,

**including footnotes** (roughly thirty *Journal* pages). We also encourage proposal submissions of three to five pages.

- For Book Reviews, we strongly encourage submissions of **fewer than 10,000 words, including footnotes** (roughly twenty *Journal* pages).

For submissions that exceed these word counts, length will be a factor that weighs significantly against acceptance of the manuscript. For more information on our commitment to concise scholarship, please see a [joint statement](#) issued by the *Journal* and eleven other leading law reviews.

**Abstract:** Please include a short abstract with your submission.

**Anonymity:** We review manuscripts anonymously, without regard to the author's name, prior publications, or pending publication offers. **We therefore ask that you remove all identifying information (including your name, affiliation, and acknowledgments) from the manuscript and the file name. Additionally, please do not submit a cover letter or CV with your submission.**

Our system automatically redacts all passages that contain the author's names. However, by removing all identifying information in advance, you ensure that none of your footnotes will be deleted in their entirety. **Please also redact any identifying information in headers and footnotes.** Do ensure, however, that the title of the manuscript appears on the first page.

**Resubmissions to Same Volume:** We allow authors to resubmit Articles or Essays originally submitted in the Spring review period to the same volume's summer review period. Authors may not submit the same piece to the same review period more than once. Resubmissions submitted to the same volume in the summer period must be accompanied by a resubmission memorandum briefly detailing the changes made since the first submission. The memorandum should be no more than 500 words in length.

**YLS Student Authorship:** We do not review Articles or Essays written by current J.D. students at Yale Law School, or by authors who were J.D. students at Yale Law School at any time during Volume 130's submissions window. However, we will review Articles or Essays submissions that include current J.D. students at law schools other than Yale Law School as co-author. We encourage Yale Law School J.D. students to submit their work as a Note, Comment, or *Forum* Essay.

**Data:** We strongly recommend submitting datasets with any empirical submissions, and we may request these files before deciding whether to extend an offer of publication. We are able to consider the piece more quickly if the files are provided at the time of submission. To view our Empirical Work Policy, please click [here](#).

#### **IV. Conflicts of Interest**

Once a submission is accepted by the *Journal*, the author will be required to disclose all potential conflicts of interest in the first footnote of the published version. Authors must identify any

organizations that provided funding for the research or writing of the manuscript, as well as any personal or family financial interests that might be pertinent. Authors must also disclose their involvement in any litigation that is referenced in or relevant to the Article, Essay, Feature, Book Review, or *YLJ Forum* piece. The *Journal's* publication offers are all contingent upon authors' compliance with this conflict-of-interest policy.