



# The Yale Law Journal

## **VOLUME 128 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

The *Yale Law Journal* invites the submission of unsolicited Articles, Essays, 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, 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, while 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. Recent examples of successful Essays include Ian Ayres & Richard Luedeman, *Tops, Bottoms, and Versatiles: What Straight Views of Penetrative Preferences Could Mean for Sexuality Claims Under Price Waterhouse*, 123 YALE L.J. 714 (2013); Saul Levmore & Ariel Porat, *Asymmetries and Incentives in Plea Bargaining and Evidence Production*, 122 YALE L.J. 690 (2012); Benjamin I. Sachs, *The Unbundled Union: Politics Without Collective Bargaining*, 123 YALE L.J. 148 (2013); and Adrian Vermeule, *Contra Nemo Iudex in Sua Causa: The Limits of Impartiality*, 122 YALE L.J. 384 (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 scholars and practitioners to submit reviews of books that are forthcoming or that have been published within the past twenty-four months. We prefer reviews of books that have not yet been discussed extensively elsewhere. Examples from recent issues of the *Journal* include Josh Chafetz, *Multiplicity in Federalism and the Separation of Powers*, 120 YALE L.J. 1084 (2011) (reviewing ALLISON L. LACROIX, *THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIGINS OF AMERICAN FEDERALISM* (2010)); Michael W. McConnell, *Why Protect Religious Freedom?*, 123 YALE L.J. 770 (2013) (reviewing BRIAN LEITER, *WHY TOLERATE RELIGION?* (2013)); and Frederick Schauer, *The Best Laid Plans*, 120 YALE L.J. 586 (2010) (reviewing SCOTT T. SHAPIRO, *LEGALITY* (2011)).

**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 50 *Journal* pages).
- For Essays, we strongly encourage submissions of **fewer than 17,500 words, including footnotes** (roughly 35 *Journal* pages).
- For Book Reviews, we strongly encourage submissions of **fewer than 10,000 words, including footnotes** (roughly 20 *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. Please also redact any identifying information in headers and footnotes.** Do ensure, however, that the title of the manuscript appears on the first page.

**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, Book Review, or *YLJ Forum* piece. The *Journal's* publication offers are all contingent upon authors' compliance with this conflict-of-interest policy.