



# The Yale Law Journal

## VOLUME 131 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. 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 may take several weeks. In the past, some authors have felt pressure to accept offers from other journals before we have been able to complete our review process. The best way to avoid this problem is to give the *Journal* time to review your piece. **We encourage you to submit your piece exclusively to us for at least ten days.** If you are submitting to us on an exclusive basis, please check the “Exclusive Submission to The *Yale Law Journal*” box on the “Details” page of our online submission system. Once you check this box, you may indicate the date on which you will send your piece to other journals in the “Exclusive Until” field.

**Expedite Requests:** If you have received an offer of publication from another journal, please request expedited review of your submission by immediately emailing [submissions@yalelawjournal.org](mailto:submissions@yalelawjournal.org). **Please include the title of your submission, the words “expedite request,” and the decision deadline in the subject line of your expedite-request email. In the body of the email, please provide the name of the journal that has made you an offer.** Please note: expedited submissions are at a severe disadvantage in our process. We do not relax our standards for expedited pieces, and it is often impossible to complete our rigorous review process before an expedite deadline expires. Occasionally, we are able to accommodate an expedite, but much more frequently, we are forced to pass on a piece in which we had a genuine interest. **We strongly encourage you to consider submitting exclusively to the *Yale Law Journal* for a period of ten days in order to ensure that your piece receives our fullest consideration.**

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

The *Journal* accepts submissions for Articles, Essays, Notes, Comments, and Book Reviews, as well as 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 often frame their arguments as comprehensive analyses of a given subject. Essays are often narrower in

scope than Articles, but their subject matter is still 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, as a result, Essays can offer more tentative conclusions than Articles. 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.

**Notes & Comments:** Notes and Comments are student-written scholarship. They are not limited by topic, methodology, or approach. Like the distinction between Articles and Essays, the distinction between Notes and Comments is not rigid. Successful Notes tend to develop innovative and well-supportive theses to advance the debate in a particular legal field. Successful Comments tend to offer novel ideas about discrete legal issues, often drawing on students' clinical or research experiences. For more information, see our [Notes Submissions Guidelines](#) and [Comments Submissions Guidelines](#).

**Book Reviews:** The *Journal* also invites and encourages professors and practitioners to submit reviews of books that are forthcoming or that have been published within the past twenty-four months. We also encourage the submission of proposals. We prefer reviews of books that have not yet been discussed extensively elsewhere. For recent examples, see 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)).

**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. Submission Requirements

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

**Anonymity:** All submissions are reviewed fully anonymized. Deliberations and decisions for each piece take place without knowledge of the author's name, prior publications, or pending publication offers. **We therefore ask that you remove all identifying information (including your name, institutional affiliation, and acknowledgments) from the manuscript text, headers and**

**footnotes, and the file name.** Check the “properties” option under the “File” Menu and delete your name. If your name appears anywhere in the file then we will be unable to consider your submission.

**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 15,000 words, including footnotes** (roughly 30 *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.

Sample Statement:

- The research involving human subjects was approved by the [Name of Institution] IRB Protocol ID [insert protocol ID].

**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 131’s submissions window. We encourage Yale Law School J.D. students to submit their work as a Note, Comment, or *Forum* Essay.

#### **IV. Ethical Research Practices and Disclosure Form**

The *Yale Law Journal* requires disclosure of conflicts of interest, underlying data, and IRB approval. To comply with these requirements, please upload as a supplementary file on our [online submission system](#) a single document titled “[SUBMISSION TITLE]\_DISCLOSURES.” Please include all of your necessary disclosures in that single document. These disclosure requirements are discussed at greater length below.

**Conflict of Interest:** Authors submitting to the *Journal* must disclose all potential conflicts of interest. 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 policy. For more information, please see our [Conflict-of-Interest Policy](#).

**Data:** Authors submitting pieces that rely on quantitative data and analysis are expected to submit their datasets, replication code, and/or a README file with any supplemental information about how to reproduce their analysis. Although we are agnostic about the programming language used (e.g., R, Python, Stata, MATLAB), authors must submit any materials necessary to replicate their analysis. Note that poor documentation and nonreproducible code may delay our consideration of the piece. We reserve the right to refuse to publish any piece with nonreproducible results. For more information, please see our [Data-Retention Policy](#) and [Dataverse Instructions](#). After complying with these policies and uploading the appropriate files to Dataverse, please include in your disclosure document uploaded to our submission system that you have made these disclosures on Dataverse. If you are seeking a data-disclosure waiver from *YLJ*, please explain why a waiver is appropriate in your disclosure form.

**Institutional Review Board Approval:** For any research involving human subjects, authors must disclose whether they obtained approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to commencing their research. If IRB approval was not obtained for research involving human subjects, authors must explain why in their disclosure document. We will presumptively reject pieces where such approval was necessary but not obtained, and we reserve the right to request the IRB documentation associated with a submitted piece.