



The Yale Law Journal

WHEN TO SUBMIT ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

“When is the best time to submit my Article?” This is one of the most common questions that the *Yale Law Journal* (YLJ) receives. The *Journal* does not take a position on this question; however, we want authors to be able to make well-informed decisions about submissions. To that end, this document provides the weekly submission rates from Volumes 123, 124, and 125 of the *Journal*.

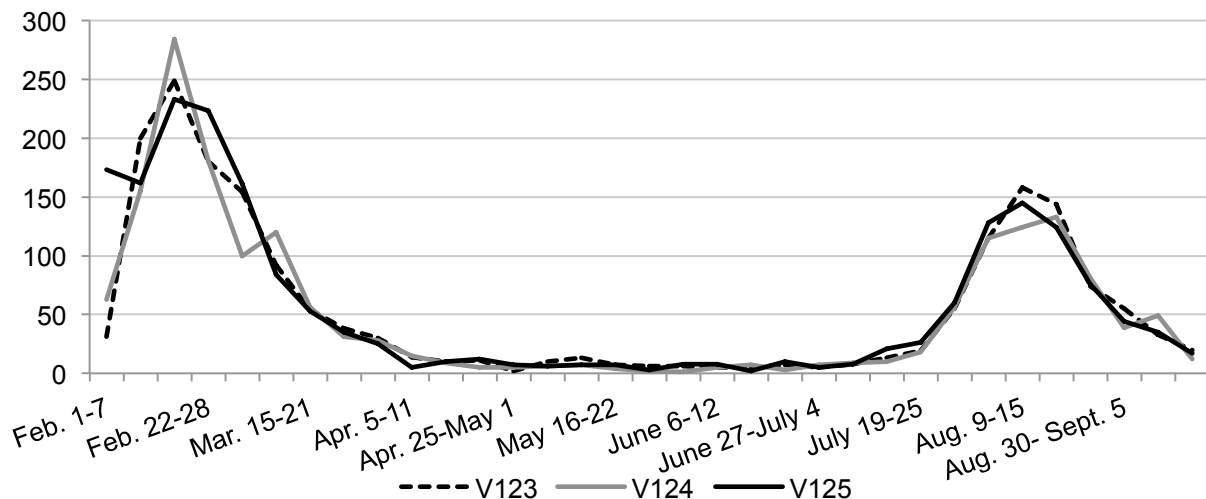
As the data below illustrates, the *Journal’s* experience is consistent with anecdotal reports that the spring submissions cycle is increasingly front-loaded, with a growing percentage of pieces submitted in the first half of February. However, this trend has not carried into the fall cycle, where submission ratios have remained relatively consistent across recent volumes.

The prevailing wisdom in the spring cycle appears to be “submit early.” However, from the *Journal’s* perspective, this approach does not offer any appreciable advantage. YLJ generally publishes sixteen to twenty pieces per volume, and the volume never “fills up.” What’s more, while YLJ is committed to publishing a diverse range of scholarship, we are happy to publish multiple pieces in the same subject area if each offers a valuable contribution. Finally, of the dozen or so publication offers that the *Journal* makes in the spring cycle, historically a majority have been made in March or later.

Also, authors should know about a possible downside to submitting early in the spring cycle: slower review times. The front-loaded cycle places a significant strain on the Articles & Essays Committee, and in most instances it takes several days—perhaps even a week—before an editor first reviews a new submission. And that is just the beginning.

The *Journal’s* review process for Articles and Essays includes four steps: (1) an Articles Editor conducts a first read; (2) if the piece shows promise, a subcommittee discusses the piece and votes on whether to send it to the full Committee; (3) the Committee performs a preemption check and collects peer consults from legal scholars; (4) finally, the full Committee deliberates and votes on whether to accept the piece for publication. This process takes two to three weeks under the best of circumstances, and longer during periods when submission rates are highest. Therefore, submitting during the peak period may disadvantage authors who have concurrently submitted to journals with faster review processes—especially if those journals give exploding offers, which may force an author to accept or reject a placement elsewhere before YLJ completes its review process. One way to mitigate this risk is to submit to the *Journal* a week or more before submitting elsewhere, a practice that we strongly encourage. However, even those authors who do not submit exclusively to YLJ should be mindful of the duration of the *Journal’s* review process.

ANNUAL SUBMISSIONS



WEEKLY SUBMISSION TOTALS

<i>Date</i>	<i>V123</i>	<i>V124</i>	<i>V125</i>
Feb. 1-7	31	63	173
Feb. 8-14	200	155	162
Feb. 15-21	249	284	233
Feb. 22-28	180	181	223
Mar. 1-7	154	100	161
Mar. 8-14	92	120	84
Mar. 15-21	54	56	53
Mar. 22-28	38	31	35
Mar. 29-Apr. 4	30	28	25
Apr. 5-11	14	15	5
Apr. 12-18	10	9	10
Apr. 19-25	11	5	12
Apr. 25-May 1	2	5	7
May 2-8	10	6	6
May 9-15	13	7	7
May 16-22	7	4	7
May 23-29	6	2	3
May 30-June 5	6	1	8
June 6-12	5	5	8
June 13-19	5	7	2
June 20-26	7	3	10
June 27-July 4	5	7	5
July 5-11	8	9	8
July 12-18	13	10	21
July 19-25	19	18	26
July 26- Aug. 1	55	56	60
Aug. 2-8	115	115	128
Aug. 9-15	158	124	145
Aug. 16-22	144	133	124
Aug. 23-29	74	81	76
Aug. 30- Sept. 5	55	39	44
Sept. 6- 12	33	49	35
Sept. 13-19	20	12	17
TOTAL	1823	1749	1932

SUBMISSIONS PER CYCLE

<i>Cycle*</i>	<i>V123</i>	<i>V124</i>	<i>V125</i>
Spring	1065	1052	1183
Fall	654	637	629

*Spring=Feb. 1-May 1; Fall = July 26-Sept. 19