

# TEXAS LAW REVIEW

## Frequently Asked Questions About the Spring Write-On Competition

### **1. *What is the write-on competition?***

The spring multi-journal write-on competition is a way to become a member of any of the twelve UT law journals. It is the only way to become a member of some journals, including TEXAS LAW REVIEW. In your application, you will choose which journals you would like to consider your application. This does not obligate you to join any journals, and you have the option to decline an offer of membership.

### **2. *Who can enter the write-on competition?***

Any rising 2L, rising 3L, or incoming transfer student can enter the write-on competition. Most journals (including TEXAS LAW REVIEW) will consider both rising 2Ls and 3Ls, though some journals will consider only rising 2Ls. Policies on transfer students and LLM students vary. Please see the Journal Profiles for more information.

### **3. *Haven't I seen other write-on competitions?***

Yes, many journals run their own individual write-on competitions for membership beginning in the spring or summer semesters. The multi-journal write-on competition is for journal membership beginning in the fall semester.

### **4. *If I join a journal in one of the early write-on competitions, can I quit later to join another journal?***

Almost certainly. Journal membership is within your control, though you should check with the individual journal to see what they expect. Most journals will allow it. Dual journal membership is another option.

### **5. *What does the write-on competition involve?***

You will be provided with a packet of edited cases, statutes, law review articles, newspaper articles, and other sources. You will be asked to write an essay of up to eight double-spaced pages using these sources. You are not expected to use all the sources (though you may certainly try). Rather, the packet is designed so that applicants can write on a wide range of issues. You will not be permitted to conduct any outside research or use any materials beyond those included in the write-on packet.

### **6. *That's it?***

Some journals have additional requirements, such as a personal statement or statement of interest. Please read the instructions in the write-on packet carefully. Any requirements for specific journals beyond the write-on essay will be included and clearly explained in the packet.

### **7. *How long does this competition take?***

Applicants are given approximately 2 weeks to complete and submit their essay. The completed application must be postmarked or turned into the TEXAS LAW REVIEW office by June 1, 2011.

### **8. *How do I get an application packet? What if I am away from school?***

To allow applicants to focus on finals, the application packet will not be distributed until May 18, 2011. It will be available online and in the TEXAS LAW REVIEW office at 9:00 a.m. The

application packet will be distributed in two formats: (1) An Adobe PDF document available online; and (2) print copies available at the law school. The PDF document will be the same as the print copy, and will be available at <http://www.texaslrev.com/about/membership>.

**9. *What if I will be away from school and without a computer?***

You have a couple of options. First, you can find an internet-connected print shop (such as a Kinko's) and download and print the packet there. Alternatively, you can leave a self-addressed, stamped envelope with TEXAS LAW REVIEW and we will use it to mail a copy of the packet to you on the morning of May 18. There will be a locked drop box in the TEXAS LAW REVIEW office where you can deposit your envelope before you leave Austin. USPS, FedEx, and UPS envelopes are all allowed. TEXAS LAW REVIEW is only responsible for placing a write-on packet in your envelope and mailing it. We cannot add postage or verify your address. Please ensure that the envelope is unsealed and has enough postage for a packet weighing about 32 ounces to be mailed to its destination.

**10. *How may I submit my essay? May I submit online?***

You may submit your essay in person at the TEXAS LAW REVIEW OFFICE before 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. Alternately, you may submit by mail, provided that your package is postmarked by 5:00pm on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. You may not submit your essay online. Email or other electronic submissions will not be considered.

**11. *Will I have time to write the essay if I am working immediately after my finals end?***

Yes. Many students have done this without detriment to their application.

**12. *Will the process be anonymous?***

Yes. Your essay will be marked only by an identification number, so the graders will have no idea who you are.

**13. *May I work with others?***

No. During the time period starting with the distribution of the write-on packet and lasting until the end of the write-on competition, you may not discuss the write-on competition with anyone. You may not conduct outside research, and your essay should be based on the packet materials alone. More details will be included in the write-on competition packet.

**14. *How much can I write? How much do I have to write?***

The upper page limit is eight-double spaced pages, with twelve-point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins on all sides. There is no minimum page limit. Eight pages is not a target—many people write effective essays in fewer than eight pages.

**15. *Is there anything I can do to prepare?***

There is not much else one can do other than being diligent in your studies and in preparing your essay. If you wish to learn more about scholarly writing, the book by Eugene Volokh, *ACADEMIC LEGAL WRITING*, has many valuable tips and is a quick read.

**16. *Where is the Texas Law Review office located?***

The TEXAS LAW REVIEW office is located in room TNH 4.135, above the Career Services Office.