

Arizona State Law Journal

Membership Benefits and Criteria

Purpose of the *Journal*

The *Journal's* purpose is to promote development of the law by publishing scholarly legal articles. To this end, the *Journal* is a forum for legal scholars and practitioners, a resource for scholarly work, and an opportunity for students at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law to engage in legal research and commentary.

Functions of Student Editors

Journal membership is a two-year commitment. During their first year of membership, all members are Staff Writers. The primary function of a Staff Writer is to edit, bluebook, and cite-check articles. Each Staff Writer must also author a Note or Comment of publishable quality. The Note or Comment may be submitted for publication in the *Journal*. Staff Writers must serve on a committee, such as the Write-On Committee, which creates and administers the Write-On Competition, or the Articles Committee, which reviews articles from legal scholars seeking publication in the *Journal*.

During their 3L year, Staff Writers assume editorial positions and leadership roles within the *Journal*. All 3L members have the opportunity to run for Editor-in-Chief or assume a position on the Executive Board, a five-member board that oversees the *Journal's* affairs. In addition to the executive board, 3L *Journal* members can assume editorial positions such as advising Staff Writers on their Note or Comment or managing a team of Staff Writers editing articles for publication in the *Journal*. Editors are not required to write an article.

Benefits of *Journal* Membership

Journal is hard work. Staff Writers must commit significant time during the semester to write their own article, edit and cite-check published articles, as well as perform their assigned committee duties. But the benefits far outweigh the time investment. *Journal* membership can add millions of dollars of increased income over the course of an entire legal career. The most prestigious of law firms, judges, and academic institutions require membership on a journal as a prerequisite for interviews. Some managing partners feel *Journal* membership is *more important*

than grades. Firms value *Journal* membership because of “the critical writing experience that the student gains as he or she goes through the process of writing and editing a note or article . . . the student not only is getting writing experience, but is well organized . . . and able to do sustained legal analysis and critique.”

Another benefit is the training and experience each Staff Writer and Editor receives. *Journal* fosters better writing through individualized instruction. Moreover, intense cite-checking and editing of articles leads to increased attention to detail and knowledge of citation rules that all attorneys use in practice. Thus, all *Journal* members are far more prepared for the practice of law, which is why *Journal* members are highly sought after by employers.

Journal also provides networking opportunities. Each year, several of Arizona’s largest firms attend our annual banquet and sponsor social events with the *Journal*. This is an opportunity to meet attorneys and potential interviewers before on-campus interviews (OCI).

The opportunity to be a published author is another important benefit. Some of our members are published twice and most are published at least once. Being published is a resume enhancer and makes members more marketable to employers. Publication also showcases researching and writing ability and gives *Journal* members the opportunity to contribute to scholarly debate within the legal community

Finally, *Journal* is an opportunity to interact with your fellow peers at the College of Law. The *Journal* holds several social functions throughout the year and the relationships built on *Journal* last for a lifetime. *Journal* membership is a powerful networking tool for future success.