

## *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.