



2026 Melissa S. Landers 1L Journal Write-On Competition

Information Session — May 4, 2026



Honoring Statement

The UW School of Law acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations. We are grateful to live and work respectfully as guests on these lands with the Coast Salish and Indigenous people who call this home.



Presentation Roadmap

- Intro to Journals
 - What is a journal?
 - UW's four law journals
- Intro to Write-On: how you can join a journal
 - What is “write-on?”
 - Registration, structure, & timeline
 - Grading criteria
 - Other helpful tips



What are “Journals” and why join?

- UW Law has four journals:
 - WJSEJ, WJLTA, WILJ, WLR
- The chance to get involved in legal scholarship
- Write your own scholarship (and possibly publish!)
- Gain important skills in researching, editing, and writing
- Build connections with peers

Meet the Journals!



Washington International Law Journal (WILJ)




- Explore Issues Related to International Law and Policy
 - Geopolitics, International Relations, & Human Rights
 - International Business, Trade, and Investment
- Three Tracks Available
 - Individual Student Comment
 - Shared Student Comment + Modest Blog Requirement
 - Full-Time Blog Writer
- What Can You Write About on WILJ?
 - **Anything You're Interested In Relating To International Law! This Past Year, Our 2L Editors Delved Into:**
 - Human Rights Laws in Foreign Nations | Comparative Analyses on Refugee and Healthcare Laws | International Environmental Regulation & Enforcement | National Self-Determination & Secession | International Criminal Tribunals, Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide | Geopolitical Doctrines
- Accepting 30-35 Rising 2Ls



Washington Journal of Social & Environmental Justice (WJSEJ)



- Practical ideas & strategies to advance social and environmental justice.
- The Journal publishes twice per year. Recent scholarship includes:
 - “De Facto Death Sentences for Misdemeanor Offenses” by Alena Sharp
 - “Any Black Man Will Do” by Ariam Kiflemariam
- Seeking 20-25 rising 2L editors



Washington Journal of Law, Technology & Arts (WJLTA)

- The Northwest's leading journal covering legal issues and developments in technology, arts, sports, media, and entertainment
- Two Tracks: Article and Blog (wjlta.com)
- Hosts symposium each spring
- Recent Topics:
 - Art as a Tool to Process Trauma
 - How AI is Fracturing our Shared Reality
 - Washington State new Regulations for ALPRs
 - Jody Allen and the Future of the Seahawks
- Historically accept 20-22 rising 2Ls



Washington Law Review (WLR)

- Washington state's flagship legal publication
- Produces and publishes a wide range of legal scholarship
 - Four issues per year and regular online features
- Values building an inclusive culture and uplifting diverse perspectives
- Develops practical experience:
 - (1) Bluebook & edit,
 - (2) select articles to publish,
 - (3) research & write student comment
 - Note: 2L editing work begins in July 2026
- Historically accepts 35–40 students



Write-On



What is “Write-On”?

- The process by which rising 2Ls are selected for journal membership
 - Summer & Winter Write-Ons
- An application packet that you must complete within a defined period:
Thu, June 11 (day after last 1L final) to **Sun, June 21**
- The grading and selection process is **anonymous** and does not consider GPA



Registration & Submission

- **You must register in advance to participate in write-on.**
 - Registration Form opens on May 4 (**today**) and closes May 29 at 11:59 p.m.
 - Registration Form: <https://forms.gle/LUEHyQLi4NXBiGWP6>
- On Thursday, June 11, the submission portal opens, and you will receive the Write-On materials & instructions
- Completed Write-On materials are **due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, June 21**
 - When you submit, you will rank your journal preference



Components & Goals of Write-On

Components

1. Submission Form
2. Personal statement(s)
3. Writing component: a portion of your Spring LARW brief
4. Mock QA: an editing assignment using the Bluebook
Note: this simulates the QAs you would do as a 2L editor

Goals

- Assess specific skills relevant to participating in journals: research and writing, bluebook and editing, critical thinking
- Increase diversity among journal membership



Withdrawal

You may withdraw from the competition any time before the submission portal closes: Sunday, June 21.

If you withdraw after June 21 or decline an offer to join a journal, **you will not be able to participate in the Winter Write-On Competition.**



Key Dates

- **Monday, May 4** (Today) — Write-On Registration opens!
- **Wednesday, May 6** — Journal Tabling, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Galleria
- **Monday, May 11** — QA Training with Prof. Ziff, 12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m., Room 138
- **Friday, May 15** — Journal Suite Open House, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Library Level 1
- **May 15** — Journal Happy Hour, 5-6 p.m., Big Time Brewery
- **Friday, May 29** — Write-On registration closes at 11:59 p.m.
- **Thursday, June 11** — Write-On competition begins and submission portal opens
- **Sunday, June 21** — Write-On competition ends, submission portal closes at 11:59 p.m.
- **Early July**— Offers are extended



Write-On Packet

The packet includes:

- Write-On Rules and Guidelines
- A description of each journal and the journals' grading criteria
 - Note that the grading criteria may differ across journals
- Detailed instructions on how to complete the four parts:
 - Submission Form (ranking journals)
 - Personal Statement Prompts
 - Mock Quality Assurance assignment
 - The Writing Sample



Dropbox & anonymity

- Log out of your Dropbox account if you have one.
- **DO NOT write your name in the “Your name” box. Instead, write your assigned “applicant number.”**
- If your name appears on the submission, your application will be disqualified.

EICs Elect sent you this request

Write-on TEST RUN

Upload any word docs (QA) or PDFs

Upload by May 13, 2026 at 10:00 PM PDT

- Writing Sample.pdf
- Personal Statements.pdf
- PDF of Case.pdf
- Mock QA.docx

EXAMPLES OF DOCUMENTS YOU WILL SUBMIT.

Add more files

Your name

Your email address

EMAIL ADDRESS WILL NOT BE VISIBLE TO GRADERS. IT'S OKAY IF YOUR NAME IS IN YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.

DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME HERE! WRITE YOUR APPLICANT NUMBER.

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Personal Statements

- There will be at least two personal statement prompts
 - Required for all journals
 - Each journal has its own scoring process
- Some journals may have additional or different personal statement prompts



Legal Writing Submission

- The writing submission is the same for all journals
- You will receive instructions on how to edit and format your Spring Brief
- How we will grade the writing submission and what we are looking for will be described in the packet
 - Note that the grading may be different from how your LARW professor grades



Mock QA

- QA stands for Quality Assurance
- The Mock QA will test your editing and Bluebooking skills
 - Applying the rules in the White Pages of the Bluebook
 - There will be a training on how to do a QA on May 11 at lunch
- The packet has instructions on how to anonymize and document your changes



Example of a QA

The First Enforcement Act deployed sweeping federal power over congressional elections.²⁴⁴ Congress created new crimes, penalties, and civil causes of action against private individuals for interference with the right to vote, prohibiting the use of “force, bribery, threats, intimidation, or other unlawful means” to “hinder, delay, prevent, or obstruct . . . any citizen from doing any act required to be done to qualify him to vote or from voting at any [congressional] election,”²⁴⁵ or “to prevent or hinder his free exercise and enjoyment of any right or privilege granted or secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having exercised the same.”²⁴⁶ The Act gave federal district courts exclusive jurisdiction over all crimes and offenses committed against the provisions of the Act, and it granted to federal district and appellate courts concurrent jurisdiction over all other actions arising under the law.²⁴⁷

The First Enforcement Act also marked an unprecedented exercise of federal power over the states and their agents. For example, the statute attempted to preempt malfeasance by state actors by deeming that any

(1871).

²⁴³ [First Enforcement Act](#), ch. 114, 16 Stat. 140 (1870).

²⁴⁴ See ERIC FONER, RECONSTRUCTION: AMERICA’S UNFINISHED REVOLUTION, 1863-1877 454-09 (Ann Finlayson, 1st ed. 1988).

²⁴⁵ [First Enforcement Act §4](#).

²⁴⁶ *Id.* §6.

²⁴⁷ *Id.* §8.



UW Law Honor Code

The UW Law Honor Code applies to all parts of write-on.

- Do not share your write-on materials
- Do not seek any form of outside help
- **Do not use ChatGPT or any AI platform**
 - This means removing any portions of your writing sample that have used AI!
- This conduct will result in an Honor Code violation



What happens after you submit?

- Each journal grades your Write-On materials *anonymously*
- Invitations will be extended to students who have been selected for journal membership in early July
 - Selected students only receive one offer from one journal
- If you are offered journal membership but decline, you are no longer eligible to apply for journal membership
- But if you are not offered journal membership, or if you withdraw from Write-On before June 21, you can participate in another Write-On during Winter Quarter of your 2L year
 - Note: there are far fewer membership spots available during Winter Write-On



Important Tips

- **If you're interested at all in joining a journal, register for write-on.** You can always withdraw your registration before June 21.
- **Check and double check that all of your write-on materials are anonymous.** Leaving your name in any of the submission materials will result in an automatic disqualification.
- **Follow all of the write-on packet instructions.** Read carefully. If you have outstanding questions, email UWLaw.Landerswriteon@gmail.com.



Questions?

UWLaw.Landerswriteon@gmail.com



Sign-up now!

Registration Form:

[https://forms.gle/LUEHyQLi4NX
BiGWP6](https://forms.gle/LUEHyQLi4NXBiGWP6)

