



Fall 2025 HULR External Submission Guide

Thank you for your interest in submitting an external submission to the Harvard Undergraduate Law Review.

All Fall 2025 External Submissions must be submitted by Thursday, October 2, 2025.

Please refer to the guide below for detailed guidelines, recommendations, and examples to help you prepare your work.

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Basic Guidelines

Our publishing team reviews hundreds of external submissions. To ensure that your work is considered, **please read and follow the guidelines below carefully.** You can use the [HULR External Submission Template](#) to help you adhere to the guidelines.

1. All external submissions to HULR must be around 2,500 words.
2. You may submit either a legal article or an interview (see [different submission formats](#) for more details).
3. To enter a piece, you must be a current undergraduate student at an accredited institution anywhere in the world.
4. On the cover page of your submission, please indicate:
 - a. Full Name
 - b. Email address
 - c. Phone Number
 - d. University/Institution
 - e. Class Year (year of graduation)
 - f. Title of Piece
 - g. Word Count
5. All submissions must adhere to HULR style guidelines and include citations formatted with endnotes in Chicago style. Please see the [citations](#) and [style guidelines](#) sections for more information.
 - a. See [here](#) for an example of a piece with properly formatted citations.
6. Accepted submissions will have exceptional literary merit and legal insight.
7. **All 2025 External Submissions must be submitted by Thursday, October 2, 2025.**

Different Submission Formats

Article

- **Purpose:** to provide an original **argument** about a legal topic
 - Constrained to 2500 words, this article should be filled with clear and concise analysis of a legal topic. The most important part of your article is your argument (what will constitute your thesis.) Don't just summarize or contemplate a contentious legal issue, rather you should present your **own unique argument** about the topic at hand.
- **Requirements:**
 - 2500 word count

- 12 pt Times New Roman Font
- 1-inch margins
- Chicago style endnotes
- Structure: your article should follow the basic structure outlined in [components of an article](#), centering around an argumentative thesis and supported by evidence and analysis presented in your body paragraphs
- Choosing Topics:
 - Check out past *HULR* articles, the *Harvard Law Review*, *Yale Law Journal*, *Stanford Law Review*, and the Harvard Law Review Blog for inspiration
 - You can really write about whatever you are interested in, so long as it centers around a legal argument.
- Sample Topics:
 - “Brown v. Board of Education: The Unfulfilled Promise” – Examine legal history and analyze a landmark Supreme Court case through the lens of current events!

Interview

- **All interviews require:**
 - A submitted recording of the interview
 - **Verbal consent from the interviewee for their words to be published within the submitted recording**
 - A transcript of the interview, labelling each of the speakers involved
 - A brief biography of the interviewee as the abstract of the transcript
- Purpose: To explore the subtleties, nuances, or even contradictions in the law by discussing with a legal expert
 - This is your chance to speak with a legal expert and dive into the nuances and subtleties of the law, get in there!
- Requirements:
 - 7-10 questions (roughly)
 - Typical length of 30 minutes, but can range from 20 to 40 minutes
 - Transcript can be 2500-3000 words, but this depends on length and content of interview
- Brainstorming Contacts:
 - Picking the right person to interview is one of the most important parts of the project
 - Ideal interviewees include legal scholars, law professors, federal judges, federal prosecutors, international law figures, etc. Don’t be afraid to contact prominent legal

- professionals!
 - Ask yourself: Is there a particular legal issue that has been gnawing at you? Does the public fundamentally misunderstand some legal issue? Is there one legal scholar who really stands out in their field?
 - Conduct some basic research beforehand to find experts in your field
 - Ex: Cass Sunstein (administrative law, environmental law), Annette Gordon-Reed (legal history, criminal law), Richard Fallon (constitutional law, federal courts)
- Crafting Questions:
 - Your questions should follow a general narrative, make sure you are providing focus to the conversation!
 - Ask questions beginning with “Why”, “How”, “To what extent”...
 - Start with broad, thematic questions and get more specific as you move through the interview
 - Do research on your interviewee beforehand so your questions are tailored to him/ her specifically
 - Respond to what the interviewee is saying and adjust
 - Your interview should feel like it flows and follows the turns that the conversation takes, don’t feel forced to ask every question if it doesn’t fit!
- Example strong question: “You co-wrote a Boston Globe op-ed this week that suggested the emergency room as one place to register voters. Do you feel that such creative solutions are necessary to make potential voters more engaged?” (Extracted from [interview](#) with Cass Sunstein)

Components of an Article

(Does not apply to interviews)

- **Abstract:** A concise summary of the article in about 150 words
 - This is separate from the article itself and comes before the introduction
 - Think of it like the elevator pitch for your article!
- **Thesis Statement:** Usually included in the first third of the article, your thesis must be inherently argumentative (Ask yourself: could an educated person reasonably disagree with this statement?)
 - A successful thesis statement is not too wordy, but also retains the sort of complexity that comes with any thorough argument

- Note that a strong thesis statement should not “give away” the entire argument, and you should save meaningful content for the article’s body and conclusion
- **Body Paragraphs:** Each body paragraph should serve as a single “leg” of your argument that advances and supports your thesis
 - All body paragraphs—and their respective topic sentences—should link back to the central argument
 - Still, your body paragraphs should not merely advance the same conclusion with different pieces of evidence, but rather each paragraph should work to substantiate a unique dimension of the thesis
- **Endnotes:** All articles must cite sources using Chicago style endnotes.
 - See [citations](#) for in-depth information regarding citations.

Suggestions for Strong Articles

- Is the topic interesting, and do you **convey your article’s significance** (i.e. Why should people be reading the piece in the first place)?
- Is the **structure of the piece optimized**, and are there no arguments getting lost in the overall article?
- Is the article **argumentative**? Specifically, does it advance an **original argument concerning the law**?
- Does the structure of your article advance the argument and **link back to the thesis**?
- Do the **topic sentences** form a skeleton for your article?
 - Even without the rest of your article, your topic sentences should provide a clear story
- Is the **diction** appropriate for the consumption by a broad public audience?
 - There should not be too much *legalese*, since our articles are designed for reading by an educated, but not necessarily lawyerly, audience
- Is the piece written in a **professional, polished manner**, without any grammatical errors?
 - Vocabulary: Advanced yet understandable
 - Language: Neither strident nor sensationalist
 - Tone: Impartial and respectful

What to Avoid & Common Errors

- A **recitation of facts or summaries**, even if they concern the law
- **Arguments about politics** or other related fields, and not centered around the law
- **Long, clunky, and difficult-to-read sentences**

- Prioritize being clear and concise
- This will leave more time and space to advancing your thesis
- **Niche vocabulary**
 - It can be easy to try to hyper-intellectualize your work, and every Harvard student can fall into the trap of trying to make their work difficult to access in an effort to advance the “difficulty” or “complexity” of their piece
 - However, in legal writing in particular, the strongest pieces are those that can be understood by the common educated reader—that’s the real challenge of great academic writing
- **Militant language**
 - While we encourage writers to be opinionated, in order for the *HULR* to meet standards of professionalism, it is important that each argument be conveyed in a respectful, rigorously factual manner.

Citations

- As of Spring 2024, the HULR is using a modified endnote Chicago style of citation for articles (see the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) for the basic structure)
- Where you would like to add a citation...
 - Instead of adding a small footnote number, include the source number in brackets: [1], [2], etc.
 - Please include the punctuation after the bracket, like this [3].
 - Make sure to cite **all quoted and paraphrased information** in this style at the end of the sentence.
- At the very end of the article, include a bibliography with your bracketed numbers. **Please list them in the order they appear in the article, not alphabetized by last name.**
- Use Ibid. to indicate that information is from the same source as the previous footnote.
- Case citations
 - **Do not include the citation in the body** of your writing pieces, but **do include it in all endnotes in the bibliography section**(not italicized).
 - **First endnote:** [1] *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137 (1803)
 - **Second endnote:** [2] 5 U.S. 137 (1803)
 - Translation: This is published beginning on page 137 in Volume 5 of *United States Reports*
 - “U.S.” = Official Opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court

- **Third endnote:**
 - If immediately following the second: Ibid.
 - If not: 5 U.S. 137 (1803) (similar to second footnote)
- See [here](#) for an example of a piece with properly formatted citations.

Style Guidelines

Capitalization

- Headings & subheadings:
 - In headings, capitalize the initial word, any word that immediately follows a colon, and all other words except articles, conjunctions, and prepositions of four or fewer letters.
 - **Example:** *The Art of Building a Canoe from Concrete*
 - In subheadings, capitalize only the first word of the subhead and any words that would normally be capitalized in regular text, like proper nouns.
 - **Example:** *An insider's look at the physics behind boat building*
- Capitalize racial and ethnic identifications
 - **Black/African American**
 - **Asian (American)**
 - **Hispanic/Latino**
 - **Native (American)/Indigenous**
 - **White**
- Words that are capitalized only under certain conditions:
 - **Court**, only when in reference to the **Supreme Court** or when naming a specific court in full
 - **Circuit**, only when in reference to specific circuits
 - **Act**, only when in reference to specific acts
 - **Constitution**, only when in reference to the US Constitution
 - Do not capitalize “constitutional”
 - Titles
 - **President** Biden
 - **Secretary** Blinken
 - **Prime Minister** Johnson
 - Do not capitalize positions without reference to people
 - “the president”
 - “the prime minister”

- Other formal job titles
- Political parties and affiliations
 - **Republican Party**
 - **Democrat**
 - Do not capitalize “party” when unspecified
 - Do not capitalize political ideologies or systems when not in reference to parties of similar names
 - “democracy”
 - “conservative”

Punctuation

- Use the Oxford comma.
- End punctuations go inside quotation marks.
- When two independent clauses are separated by a coordinating conjunction, they should also be separated by a comma.
 - “I would like to go outside, but it’s too cold today.”
 - Note the [difference](#) between coordinating and subordinating conjunctions
 - Subordinating conjunctions like “because” and “although” do not require a comma
- Note the [difference](#) between hyphens and em dashes
 - There is no space between an em dash and its surrounding words.
 - “I read the *HULR* — it has good articles.”
- If the phrases on both sides of the comma can stand as complete sentences, it’s a comma splice.
 - Replace the comma with a semicolon or colon **OR**
 - And a conjunction after the comma

Numbers

- Numbers greater than 10 (inclusive) should be written numerically; numbers between and 9 inclusive should be written out; decimals are always numerical.
- *Example: nine **not** 9; 50 **not** fifty*
 - Use hyphens in numbers which require them
 - Numbers above one hundred should keep their numerical form (Arabic numerals).
 - *Example: 150 instead of one hundred fifty*
 - Exceptions are numbers which can be easily written out without utilizing numerals.
 - *Examples: a million instead of 1,000,000; a billion instead of 1,000,000,000; etc.*

■ *Note: Twelve hundred should not replace 1,200 and likewise for similar numbers*

- Numbers with four or more digits (not including decimal places) should have commas every three digits, moving from the decimal leftwards.
 - *Example: 1,000,000 instead of 1000000 or 1.000.000 or 1 000 000*
- Decimals should always be written out. Numbers with decimals should use a period and not a comma to denote the decimals.
 - *Example: 237.83 not 237,83*
- **Always** write out “percent”
 - *Example: 23 percent instead of 23% or twenty-three %*
 - Write numbers for percentages, including numbers 1-10 (inclusive)
 - *Example: 33 percent **not** thirty three percent; 9 percent **not** nine percent.*

Countries, states, cities

- UK/Great Britain/England
 - *Great Britain* includes *England, Scotland, and Wales*, NOT *Northern Ireland* (Great Britain is a geographical term, referring to the island)
 - Use *The United Kingdom* when referring to the country as a whole
- Use *United States* rather than *America*
- Use *The Netherlands* rather than *Holland*
- *The European Union* should be spelled out first before *EU* is used in the rest of the article
- **States and cities**
 - When the name of a state stands alone in a sentence, spell it out. When used with a city, you should abbreviate (except for Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Texas, Utah and states not part of the contiguous U.S). Here’s a [list](#) of state abbreviations in AP and a list of well-known cities that don’t need state abbreviations.

Currencies

- Use “\$” for monetary values
 - *Example: \$20 million instead of 20 million dollars*
 - **Exception:** with monetary values, always use numerical values, even if they fall in the range of 1-10 (inclusive)
 - *Example: \$10 million, **not** ten million dollars*
- Dollar currencies
 - *Dollar* = refers to American dollar by default, but use *USD* if there is a mixture of dollar currencies in the article
 - A\$ = Australian dollars

- C\$ = Canadian dollars
- HK\$ = Hong Kong dollars
- M\$ = Malaysian dollars
- NT\$ = Taiwanese dollars
- NZ\$ = New Zealand dollars
- S\$ = Singapore dollars
- *Euro* (plural *euros*) (€)
- Other currencies (written in full, with the number first EXCEPT Japan)
 - Brazil *real* (100 *reais*)
 - Because of the risk of confusion with “real,” only this currency is ***italicized*** in text
 - China, yuan (100 yuan). The Yuan is the unit of currency. When referring to the currency as a whole, use *Renminbi*.
 - India, rupee (100 rupees)
 - Nigeria, naira (100 naira)
 - Peso currencies (100 pesos)
 - South Africa, rand (100 rand) *NOT rands*
 - Turkey, Turkish lira (100 liras)
 - Japan, yen (¥1,000) *NOT 1,000 yen*

Miscellaneous

- “They” is an acceptable singular (grammatically plural) pronoun of unspecified gender. Avoid “he or she” or “he/she”
 - “The reader picks up a copy of *HULR*. They like the articles.”
- Use “Latine,” not “Latinx”
- Know when to use [italics, quotation marks, and capitals](#)
- Date format: Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 1:42 P.M. EST.
 - Omit “Tuesday” and/or “EST” when appropriate
 - Do not use 24-hour time

Examples of Successful External Submissions

1. [AI As An Employment Agent: What Mobley V. Workday Addresses, and What It Doesn't](#) by *Poem Schway*
2. [The Post-Dobbs Landscape: Biojurisprudence, Philosophy, and Emerging Technologies](#) by *Joel Andrew Cosme-Morales*

3. [Families' Roles in Medical Decisions Pertaining to the Withdrawal of Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration](#) *by Selenia Kishek*
4. [A Tale of Two Charters: Tracing the Democratic Evolution from Confederation to Constitution](#) *by Sandra Bojaj*