

South Texas College of Law Houston Journals and Law Reviews: Information and how to apply

South Texas College of Law Houston has five law reviews and journals. By participating in any of them you can gain valuable writing and editing skills that prepare you for the practice of law.

Each journal has its own process for applications and requirements for membership. This memorandum is provided to help you assess which interest you. Successful completion of membership requirements in three of the journals – *South Texas Law Review*, *CURRENTS: Journal of International Economic Law*, and *Corporate Counsel Review* – allow students to earn Academic Credit. Successful completion of membership requirements for two of those journals – *South Texas Law Review* and *CURRENTS: Journal of International Economic Law* result in Academic Credit and Writing Credit under STCLH rules.

South Texas Law Review:

Law Review is a scholarly periodical edited and published by second- and third-year students of STCLH selected for membership based on outstanding scholarship and writing abilities. An Advisory Council comprised of respected judges, practitioners, and law professors assist the Members, while faculty advisors guide the direction of the organization.

Published four times a year, each issue contains articles on topics at the forefront of developing legal theory and practice. In recent years, Law Review has included articles by, among others, former United States Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Associate Justices of the Supreme Court William J. Brennan, John Paul Stevens and Clarence Thomas, former Attorney General of the United States Edwin Meese III, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, and Judge Edith Jones of the Fifth Circuit. In the spring of 2007, the Texas Bar Foundation awarded Law Review an Outstanding Law Review Article award for the article *Summary Judgments in Texas*, written by Judge David Hittner and Lynne Liberato, 47 *S. Tex. L. Rev.* 409 (2006).

The legal profession holds Law Review membership in high esteem and recognizes it as an indication of skill and commitment. Besides allowing Members to work and socialize with their peers, membership also provides an opportunity for students to publish in Law Review.

Participation in Law Review requires a personal commitment to publish a substantively and technically accurate academic journal. This involves a significant investment of time and energy, but it is an extremely worthwhile investment. Membership on Law Review is not only recognition of academic excellence, but also enhances Members' legal education and prepares them for the rigorous demands of the legal profession. See <http://www.stcl.edu/academics/law-reviews-journals/south-texas-law-review/> for the Law Review website. See <http://www.stcl.edu/academics/law-reviews-journals/south-texas-law-review/frequently-asked-questions/> for Frequently Asked Questions about membership, the write-on process, and the work done by staff members.

CURRENTS: Journal of International Economic Law:

CURRENTS: Journal of International Economic Law (CURRENTS: JIEL) is a nationally and internationally recognized law journal edited and published by second- and third year students at STCLH selected for membership based on outstanding scholarship, writing abilities and interest in international law, particularly international economic law.

Published twice a year, *CURRENTS: JIEL* publishes both articles and essays by scholars and practitioners as well as student notes. *CURRENTS: JIEL* is part of the Institute for International Legal Practice & National Security (IILP & NS) at STCLH and has two Faculty Advisors, Associate Dean Cherie Taylor, and Assistant Dean Elizabeth Dennis. Recently *CURRENTS: JIEL* and the IILP & NS coordinated with the international corporate compliance community of Houston to start what will be a biennial tradition of symposiums and corresponding journal issues devoted to topics of interest to this large community of lawyers. The first symposium, *Compliance in International Corporate Legal Practices – Legal Developments and the Talent Needs of the Future*, was held at STCLH on April 5, 2019. A recent volume of *CURRENTS: JIEL*, Volume 24.1, contains articles from the panels of the first biennial conference. See the journal website at <http://www.stcl.edu/academics/law-reviews-journals/currents/> for more

information about the journal, membership, recent issues and information about the recent symposium. Contact the Faculty Advisor, Associate Dean Cherie Taylor (ctaylor@stcl.edu) with any questions about *CURRENTS: JIEL*.

How to Join South Texas Law Review and CURRENTS: JIEL

To write on to both *South Texas Law Review* and *CURRENTS: JIEL*, students must complete the Write-On Competition assignment. Students participating in the Write-Ons can specify a desire to be considered for one or both journals. Currently Write-Ons are held at least three times a year: 1) after the completion of the 1st year spring academic semester before summer; 2) right before the following fall academic semester; and 3) after the fall academic semester before the start of the spring academic semester.

For those planning to take part in the upcoming Write-Ons, please look for and attend the information sessions put on by the Editors-in Chief (EICs) of *South Texas Law Review* and *CURRENTS: JIEL*. The information session for Spring 2021 will be held after final exams. Meanwhile, feel free to e mail either of the current EICs:

- Gaspar Gonzalez – *South Texas Law Review* at (Stcl.lr.eic@gmail.com)
- Elizabeth Nevle of *CURRENTS: JIEL*(currents@stcl.edu)

The Write-On assignment is comprised of three components, a casenote, an editing exercise, and a grammar exercise. The case note is a detailed analysis of a recent case through support or criticism of the respective court's rationale and holding, which showcases necessary legal research and writing skills. Where the case note upholds substance over form, the editing exercise values the exact opposite. The editing exercise tests the student's ability to adhere to the strict guidelines set forth in the Bluebook, the Greenbook, and the Manual on Usage and Style. Finally, the grammar exercise tests the student's ability to think through the mechanics of syntax and focuses on proper use of vocabulary, punctuation, and, of course, grammar.

Students must submit all components of the assignment to the Coordinator of Scholarly Publications by the set deadline to qualify for consideration for either journal. Write-On submissions are reviewed anonymously and offers are extended by *South Texas Law Review* and *CURRENTS: JIEL* to successful candidates.

Corporate Counsel Review:

Corporate Counsel Review (CCR) chooses editors competitively each Fall and Spring semester, through an application process. All CCR members who complete their commitments earn an editor title – Associate Editor. The articles edited and published by *Corporate Counsel Review* are scholarly, practical, and focused on the practice of in-house counsel. CCR receives articles from practitioners and academics around the state and country. *Corporate Counsel Review* is delivered by the Corporate Counsel Section of the State Bar of Texas to over 4,500 practicing attorneys.

Each Associate Editor writes one casenote each semester that is submitted for publication in the journal. Unlike the student notes for *South Texas Law Review* and *CURRENTS: JIEL*, CCR casenotes are limited to 700 words of close analysis. CCR publishes about half of the casenotes submitted each semester, so members stand a good chance of receiving an invitation to publish. Contact the Faculty Advisor, Professor Val Ricks at vricks@stcl.edu, for information about CCR

Construction Law Journal:

The *Construction Law Journal* is published semi-annually by the Construction Law Section of the State Bar of Texas with the assistance of students from South Texas College of Law Houston. The purpose of the Journal is to publish well-researched, scholarly articles concerning matters of interest in the practice of Construction Law. The Journal Editors invite the submission, for publication consideration, of any original manuscript addressing topics within the area of Construction Law. See <http://www.stcl.edu/academics/law-reviews-journals/construction-law-journal/> for more information from the journal website.

More information about the Construction Law Journal and previous issues, may be found at:

www.constructionlawsection.org.

Hispanic Journal of Law and Policy:

The *Hispanic Journal of Law and Policy* is the newest law journal at South Texas College of Law Houston. Its purpose is to inform and significantly impact the Hispanic legal community in Texas and across the nation. Established in 2016 by STCL Houston alumnus Benny Agosto Jr. '95, STCLH serves as the academic home for this journal, aimed at uniting attorneys – as well as leaders in social work, public policy, government, and other fields – around current topics.

The purpose of the journal is simple, to provide a forum and opportunity for the expression and dissemination of scholarly work on law related issues that affect the United States Hispanic community. The Journal will help empower students, professors and authors, advocates, and leaders to take on challenges, core principles, and to explore and reflect upon the needs of our society to find solutions and further progress.

More information about the *Hispanic Journal of Law and Policy* and previous issues, may be found at the journal's website <http://www.stcl.edu/academics/law-reviews-journals/hispanic-law-journal/> and contact Monica Ortale, Associate Director for Public Services of the STCLH Library (mortale@stcl.edu).