Call for Applications: Journal of Law & Innovation

The Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition (CTIC) invites applications from interested first-year and second-year Penn Law students for membership on the student editorial board of the 2020-2021 Journal of Law & Innovation, Penn Law’s faculty-run law journal in the area of law and technology.

Application Deadline: 11:59 p.m. ET on Sunday, March 22, 2020

The journal functions as a year-long seminar class where students will have the opportunity to work closely with faculty on the production and editing of the journal. The Journal of Law & Innovation will be published as a single-issue journal each year, in a symposium format on a topic within the general area of law, innovation and technology. During the Fall semester students will work with the faculty editor(s) to read prominent legal scholarship on the topic, and during the Spring they will (a) assist with the running and organization of a major symposium on the topic, (b) work with the symposium authors to substantively edit their pieces, and (c) help bring the journal to print before the end of the academic year. The year-long seminar course will be titled “Law & Innovation Scholarship” and membership on the journal entails a commitment to enrolling in the seminar. The seminar will be offered for a total of 4 graded course credits (2 credits in the Fall; 2 credits in the Spring).

Selection to the journal and the course will be based on a combination of the following criteria:

1. Writing and editing skills, assessed through a short 1,000-word memorandum (“Memorandum”) written as a response to a piece of law and technology scholarship. Details about the memorandum component follow below.

2. Overall Law School performance, for which applicants will have to submit an informal transcript indicating the classes that they have previously taken and their performance in those classes.

3. Proof of having taken, or a commitment to taking, at least one class in the area of law and innovation (taught by a member of the CTIC faculty) either prior to or during the applicant’s membership on the Journal.

Interested applicants should submit their resume, unofficial transcript, memorandum and mock edit letter (1Ls only) at the following link: https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bx99ERuesbM7I7r - no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on Sunday, March 22, 2020. 1L students will be preferred.

Memorandum Component

All applicants for membership on the Journal of Law & Innovation are required to participate in the Memorandum component of the selection process as follows:

Applicants are required to produce a Memorandum responding to the following article:


The Article is available for download from the following link:

https://repository.uchastings.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2678&context=faculty_scholarship
Description and Requirements:

1. The Memorandum should be no more than 1,000 words excluding footnotes but including all other parts. The word limit must be strictly adhered to.

2. No substantive arguments should be made in the footnotes, which should be limited to citations to sources.

3. The Memorandum should focus on substantive editorial suggestions and criticisms and be addressed to the author of the Article. You should not spend any time summarizing or critiquing the Article, unless such summary/criticism is accompanied by editorial suggestions. Examples of such suggestions could include suggestions for: restructuring parts of the argument, supplementing parts of the argument, incorporating new sections into the Article, considering objections in the Article/argument, and the like.


5. Applicants are expected to do at least some (though not an extensive amount of) additional research into the topic during the production of their memoranda. The expectation is that the overall research, writing, and production of the memorandum should take no more five to six hours in total.

6. Since the aim is to select an equal number of first- and second-year students, first-year students do not have to worry about being disadvantaged by not having taken additional classes in the field of law and technology.

7. The memorandum does not have to adhere to any particular format, but applicants must bear in mind that it is meant to be (i) a formal memorandum, and (ii) addressed to a prominent professor in the field and adopting an appropriate tone.