

**LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW REPORTER
BYLAWS
2007-08**

Article I. Name and Purpose

- A. Name: The publication shall be called the *Public Interest Law Reporter* (PILR)
- B. Statement of Purpose: PILR shall be a student edited and student managed journal published by the Loyola University Chicago School of Law (Loyola). The purpose of PILR shall be:
 - a. To participate actively in the constructive development of public interest law through the publication of journalistic articles that have current and future relevance;
 - b. To develop the self-discipline and research, writing, and legal analysis skills of participating students;
 - c. To provide an opportunity for the intellectual development and expression of Loyola students;
 - d. To expand opportunities for Loyola students to become more aware of and conversant in public interest legal matters; and
 - e. To establish a reputation of professional excellence for PILR and Loyola.

Article II. Membership Selection and Requirements

- A. Membership Selection: PILR staff writer status is attained by invitation, which is extended to qualified students on the basis of the writing competition
 - a. Eligibility: Loyola students who have completed at least one year of legal education at Loyola may become a staff writer for PILR only through participation in a writing competition conducted by the PILR Executive Board. Loyola students who have not completed the write-on competition and been selected for membership may not submit articles for PILR.
 - b. Transfer Students: A student who transfers from another law school to Loyola may become a staff writer for PILR only through participation in a writing competition conducted by PILR the following spring after admission to Loyola.
 - c. Writing Competition Procedures
 - i. The PILR Executive Board shall conduct a writing competition during the spring semester each year. At the sole discretion of

the Board, additional writing competitions may be conducted at any time it deems appropriate.

- ii. The writing competition will consist of a writing sample that may be journalistic or legal in nature. At the sole discretion of the Board, the competition may also consist of a Blue Book citation editing exercise.

d. Selection of Members

- i. The Board shall not establish a minimum or maximum number of students that may be accepted for membership. Instead, the Board shall select as many students as are deserving.
- ii. Selection of members shall be based on factors including the quality of the writing sample, public interest law experience, news writing background, and a personal statement. The Board may weigh these factors as it deems appropriate.

e. Procedures for Identifying New Members

- i. The Board shall issue invitations via phone or e-mail and will make all reasonable efforts to contact any student not reached in one of these manners. Acceptance of the invitation must be communicated to the Editor-in-Chief not later than four weeks after the date on which the invitation was extended.
- ii. Upon selecting all members based on the above criteria, the Editor-in-Chief shall submit to the Registrar a list containing the selected students' names and shall request that the Registrar provide the names and addresses of selected students.

B. Membership Requirements: PILR is composed of two types of members: Staff Writers and the Editorial Board members.

- a. Staff Writers. Once a membership invitation is accepted, a student is a staff writer.
 - i. Writing Requirement: Each Staff Writer is required to complete one article per issue during his or her first year of PILR membership in a timely manner.
 - ii. General Duties: In addition to the writing requirement, Staff Writers may be required to proofread and cite check articles, aid in the selection of topics, and perform any other duties that would lead to the timely publication of PILR or facilitate

PILR's annual symposium (the "Symposium"). The Editor-in-Chief or other members of the Board acting in the Editor-in-Chief's role may assign members other tasks. In all cases, the Board will seek an equitable distribution of labor and will avoid unduly hindering a writer in performing his or her primary task of producing a publishable paper. Additionally, Staff Writers are required to attend all mandatory PILR staff meetings.

- C. General Guidelines for Editor Requirements and Obligations: Membership meetings may be called by the Editor-in-Chief when needed or requested by one-fifth of the membership. Reasonable notice of all meetings must be given. All PILR editors are required to attend mandatory meetings.

Article III. Editorial Board

- A. Board Structure: PILR shall be managed by a Board of Executive Editors (the "Board") as follows:
 - a. Editor-in-Chief;
 - b. Managing Editor;
 - c. Symposium Editor;
 - d. Features Editor;
 - e. News Editor;
 - f. Assistant Symposium Editor
 - g. Assistant Features Editor;
 - h. Assistant News Editor.
- B. The current Board shall determine the application process for the incoming Editorial Board using their discretion. This process may include a cite check, an essay, and an in-person interview. There is no requirement that an applicant be a current member of PILR.
- C. Editor-in-Chief
 - a. General Responsibilities: Oversee all editorial activities, coordinate and support PILR staff, and ensure that all scheduled issues are produced in a timely fashion.
 - b. Specific Responsibilities
 - i. Plan, attend and run all scheduled PILR class meetings with the help of other Board members.
 - ii. Ensure that staff meets all deadlines for submitting proposals and articles.

- iii. Make final decisions regarding appropriate topics for news pieces and features articles.
- iv. Assist writers and editors research and complete assignments by communicating effectively, giving timely feedback, and answering questions.
- v. Edit all news stories and features articles, return article to the appropriate editor or staff member, and meet all scheduled deadlines.
- vi. Keep staff informed of PILR's progress in addressing emerging administrative concerns.
- vii. Incorporate staff member's ideas and suggestions into PILR planning process.
- viii. Write Letter from the Editor
- ix. Communicate and interact with PILR Advisor and Law School administration, negotiating in the best interest of PILR.
- x. Assist other Board members complete their respective tasks, when necessary.
- xi. Writing Requirement: Optional but encouraged.
- xii. Scholarship support: \$4000/year (subject to change)

- c. Position Number/Credits
 - i. 1 Position
 - ii. 3 Credits/Semester

D. Managing Editor

- a. Responsibilities
 - i. Attend all scheduled PILR class meetings.
 - ii. Meet all relevant deadlines.
 - iii. Help EIC plan/organize PILR events, including the Symposium
 - iv. Manage PILR subscriptions database as well as making sure back or missing issues are mailed to appropriate subscribers.
 - v. Maintain PILR Archives.
 - vi. Ensure PILR issues are posted on PILR Web site
 - vii. Assist EIC and other Board members to complete their respective tasks, when necessary.
 - viii. Writing Requirement: Optional
- b. Position Number/Credits
 - i. 1 Position
 - ii. 2 Credits/Semester

E. Symposium Editor

- a. Responsibilities

- i. Attend all scheduled PILR class meetings.
- ii. Meet all relevant deadlines.
- iii. Work with EIC on presentation to Deans for approval of symposium
- iv. Take leading role in planning and coordination of annual symposium.
- v. With Managing Editor and EIC, plan and coordinate Symposium Issue
- vi. Help train staff writers in cite checking for Symposium Issue
- vii. Assist other Board members complete their respective tasks, when necessary.
- viii. Writing Requirement: Optional.

- b. Position Number/Credits
 - i. 1 Position
 - ii. 2 credits/Semester

F. Features Editor

- a. Responsibilities
 - i. Attend all scheduled PILR class meetings.
 - ii. Meet all relevant deadlines.
 - iii. Recommend to EIC suggestions for feature writers and topics from PILR staff.
 - iv. Communicate all PILR guidelines to authors.
 - v. Stay in touch with authors to make sure that they comply with PILR's editorial guidelines for their article.
 - vi. Keep EIC informed regarding soliciting feature articles from outside authors.
 - vii. Edit feature articles for content, organization, style, grammar, punctuation, spelling and word choice.
 - viii. Provide guidance and leadership to Asst. Features Editor.
 - ix. Assist other Board members complete their respective tasks, when necessary.
 - x. Writing Requirement: Optional.

- b. Position Number/Credits
 - i. 1 Position
 - ii. 2 Credits/Semester

G. News Editor

- a. Responsibilities
 - i. Attend all scheduled PILR class meetings.
 - ii. Meet all relevant deadlines.
 - iii. Recommend to EIC top news articles for publication.

- iv. Conduct individual conferences each semester as needed, giving feedback and constructive suggestions to writers.
- v. Assist news writers' research and complete assignments by communicating effectively, giving timely feedback, and answering questions.
- vi. Edit news articles for content, organization, style, grammar, punctuation, spelling and word choice.
- vii. Assist other Board members complete their respective tasks, when necessary.
- viii. Writing Requirement: Optional.

- b. Position Number/Credits
 - i. 1 Position
 - ii. 2 Credits/Semester

H. Assistant Symposium Editor

- a. Responsibilities
 - i. Assist Symposium Editor with all responsibilities
 - ii. Writing Requirement: Strongly encouraged

- b. Position Number/Credits
 - i. 1 Position
 - ii. 1 Credits/Semester

I. Assistant Features Editor

- a. Responsibilities
 - i. Assist Features Editor with all responsibilities
 - ii. Writing Requirement: Strongly encouraged

- b. Position Number/Credits
 - i. 1 Position
 - ii. 1 Credits/Semester

J. Assistant News Editor

- a. Responsibilities
 - i. Assist Features Editor with all responsibilities
 - ii. Writing Requirement: Strongly encouraged

- b. Position Number/Credits
 - i. 1 Position
 - ii. 1 Credits/Semester

K. Changes and Penalties

- a. Credit hours, editorial titles, and scholarship support may be changed due to streamlining of journal responsibilities.

- b. Responsibilities are subject to change.
- c. Failure to fulfill responsibilities could jeopardize receipt of academic credit for the semester.

L. Board Responsibilities

- a. The Board shall be collectively responsible for planning, producing and publishing three volumes of PILR, developing professional student-written contributions to PILR, selecting and training the successor Board during the Board transition period and performing all tasks necessary to fulfill the purpose of PILR.
- b. Board members are expected to work diligently to achieve the goals of PILR.
- c. Each member of the Board must work until all of his or her assigned issues of PILR are published.
- d. All Board members must follow the schedule developed by the Editor-in-Chief.
- e. Board members are not only responsible for the duties associated with their position, but are also responsible for any other task necessary to ensure timely publication of PILR.
- f. Accommodation may be made under certain circumstances, but in no event will absence from campus excuse Board members from fulfilling assigned duties or tasks.
- g. Failure to fulfill responsibilities could jeopardize receipt of academic credit for the semester.

Article IV. Plagiarism Policy

- A. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offense and will not be tolerated in any PILR publication. If any Board member or staff writer fails to cite the source of an idea or fails to use quotation marks around a direct quote, he or she may face disciplinary action.
- B. Types of plagiarism
 - a. Failure to cite the source of an idea: If a Board member or staff writer uses the idea (or organization) of another author, the idea must be attributed to the other author. Merely paraphrasing the other author's words is not

sufficient. The other source must be cited per Blue Book citation guidelines.

- b. Failure to use quotation marks around a direct quote, use of the same words: If a Board member or staff writer uses the idea and the words of another author, quotation marks must be placed around those words and the quote must be cited to the source. Both are required. If either the quotation marks or the citation is missing, the other author's work has been plagiarized.

C. Intent is not required for a writing to be plagiarized.