FIU LAW REVIEW CONSTITUTION

I. PREAMBLE.

A. The FIU Law Review is an organization composed of FIU College of Law students.

B. The purposes of the Law Review are:

1. To publish journals of legal scholarship.

2. To provide a forum for the analysis of important legal and policy issues.

3. To promote the educational purposes of the FIU College of law by strengthening Members’ legal research, writing, analysis, and leadership skills.

C. The provisions of this Constitution may be supplemented by Bylaws.

II. ORGANIZATION.

A. Student Membership. The Law Review is composed of and run by selected students at the FIU College of Law. The Law Review will provide equal opportunity for membership on Law Review while imposing such limitations as are required to retain the academic integrity of the Law Review. There are four types of Membership: Staff Members, Senior Staff Members, Articles/Comments Editors, and Executive Editorial Board Members.

1. Staff Members. Staff Members are second, third, and fourth-year law students. Staff Members will be assigned various tasks related to the production of the Law Review.

2. Senior Staff Members are third and fourth-year law students. Senior Staff Members receive editing assignments and perform the same function as a regular staff member, and are expected to generate original content for FIU Law Review’s social media platforms.

3. Articles/Comments Editors. The Articles/Comments Editors are Members who have served as a Staff Member for one academic year. Articles/Comments Editors are responsible for evaluating and editing all articles submitted and/or accepted for publication, and for supervising and coordinating the timely production and editing of student Comments.

4. Executive Editorial Board. The Executive Editorial Board (EEB) consists of Members with at least one academic year of experience as a Staff Member. The EEB consists of the following permanent positions (1) Editor-in-Chief (EIC); (2) two Executive Managing Editors; (3) Executive Comments Editor; (4) Executive Symposium Editor; and (5) Executive Business Editor. Additional positions may be approved by a majority vote of the Faculty Advisory Committee upon recommendation by the EEB that the position is needed for the Law Review’s functioning.

B. Law Review Faculty Advisor. The Law Review Faculty Advisor (LRFA) is a faculty member appointed by the Dean. The LRFA provides appropriate guidance for the effective management of the Law Review, supervises the Staff Member writing assignment, and awards academic credit for participation on law review, among other functions.
C. Student Comment Faculty Advisor. Student Comment Faculty Advisors (SCFA) are full-time faculty (tenure, tenure-track, lecturer, or visitor) who directly supervise Staff Members during the completion of the writing requirement.

D. Symposium Advisors are full-time faculty (tenure or tenure-track) who propose a topic for a symposium and then assist in the execution of the symposium. The Dean may grant exceptions to the tenure or tenure-track requirement.

III. WRITING REQUIREMENT. During the fall and spring semesters of the first year of membership, the Staff Member will complete a comment of passing quality.

IV. ACADEMIC CREDIT.

A. Each Member of the Law Review may receive academic credit for service as a Member on the Law Review, provided the Member’s Law Review service for the semester is deemed satisfactory by the LRFA. If the Member has not otherwise been sanctioned, the Member will be presumed to have performed satisfactorily.

B. In addition to satisfactory participation on the law review, if a Member has a writing requirement, the Member must write a paper of passing quality. The Member’s SCFA will grade the paper. If the Member has not otherwise been sanctioned and the SCFA has determined that the paper is of passing quality, the Member will be presumed to have performed satisfactorily. When the SCFA determines that a paper is not of passing quality, the LRFA will then consider that determination and the Member’s participation on law review to decide whether to approve or deny academic credit.

C. All credits received by Law Review staff will be designated Pass/Fail.

D. The maximum credit allowed for service on the Law Review will be in accordance with the FIU College of Law’s Academic Policies and Regulations.

E. Upon resignation of membership to the Law Review, a “withdrawal” will be placed on the Member’s transcript (if the Member was enrolled to receive academic credit for participation) and the FIU Law Review will not appear on the Staff Member’s resume for that period covered by the withdrawal.

V. PUBLICATIONS.

A. The goal of the Law Review is to publish at least four issues per academic year. The issues may be symposium-based (live or paper) or other special topics, and may include Student Comments.

B. Selection of topics for symposium issues will be through a process determined by the Dean.

VI. EDITING PHILOSOPHY. The Law Review places a premium on maintaining the author’s voice and the strength of the author’s argument throughout the editorial process and therefore employs a light-edit philosophy. Our edits strive to improve readability and ensure accuracy and stylistic consistency, not to co-opt the article from its author. This light edit approach also helps ensure the
article is published as quickly as possible, while the rigorous multi-level editing process provides citation accuracy.

VII. SANCTIONING MEMBERS.

A. Members must not permit employment activities or other co-curricular activities (including other student groups, such as the Student Bar Association or the Board of Advocates) to adversely affect or otherwise interfere with their ability to complete their required duties in an efficient, effective, and timely manner.

B. Leave of Absence. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit the ability of a Member to take a leave of absence. The LRFA will approve any requests for leaves of absence.

C. Sanctions may be imposed for good cause. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, failure to fulfill responsibilities on the Law Review, unethical or dishonest conduct, or other conduct that adversely affects the Law Review.

D. Sanctions include, but are not limited to, oral or written admonition or reprimand, demotion from position of responsibility to Staff Member, probation, suspension, or dismissal. The decision by the LRFA to not award academic credit for participation in Law Review as described above is not a sanction within the meaning of this section.

E. The EIC may impose sanctions that do not include suspension or dismissal. These sanctions may be appealed to the LFRA.

F. The EIC will refer cases that may merit suspension or dismissal to the LRFA. The LRFA’s decision on these cases is final.

G. Any Member may be removed if the Member is placed on Academic Probation or if sanctioned for misconduct by the FIU College of Law administration under the same procedures as those used to suspend or dismiss a Member.

VIII. PROCEDURE. The EEB will comply with Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised. In exigent circumstances, the EIC may independently decide an issue within the EEB’s power, respectively, subject to the later ratification or veto of such decision by the EEB.

IX. AMENDMENTS. The policies established in this Constitution are binding on the Law Review and may be amended only by a vote of two-thirds of the members of a committee appointed by the Dean to revise the Constitution. The EIC may recommend amendments to the LRFA.
FIU Law Review

Bylaws

Effective as of November 9, 2019
FIU LAW REVIEW BYLAWS

I. PREAMBLE.


B. Definitions. The following definitions apply throughout the Bylaws:

1. “Foundational Curriculum” will be defined by the Curriculum Committee.

2. “In consultation with” means that the body that is consulted will review the decision for abuse of discretion, unless academic credit is the resulting effect of such consultation. When this term regards consultation with the Law Review Faculty Advisor (LRFA), the LRFA shall have a veto power over the decision; however, such veto power shall be for abuse of discretion except when determining academic credit.

3. “Student Agreement” refers to the FIU Law Review Student Membership Agreement, which is incorporated by reference.

4. “Student Comments” refers to any articles, comments, or notes produced by a Member as part of the writing requirement.

II. JOINING THE LAW REVIEW.

A. Eligibility.

1. General.

   a. Students on Academic Probation are not eligible for admission on to Law Review.

   b. The LFRA may deem students sanctioned for misconduct in accordance with § 7.01 of the College of Law Student Handbook to be ineligible for admission to Law Review.

2. Full-time students.

   a. Students must have an overall 2.67 cumulative grade point average (based only on curved classes) and a 2.67 GPA in their Legal Skills & Values I and II classes. If a full-time student is extended an invitation to join Law Review but does not have the required overall GPA at the time of invitation, that student will be given the opportunity to raise his or her GPA either (1) by the end of the summer class period (computed using curved classes only); or (2) by the end of the fall semester immediately following the invitation (computed using curved classes only). If the student raises his or her GPA based on summer coursework, he or she may participate in Law Review as a Staff Member beginning that fall. If the student raises his or her GPA by the end of the fall semester, he or she may only participate in Law Review as a Staff Member in his or her 3L year. Part-time students must have the required GPA at the time of invitation.
b. Students must have completed the Foundation Curriculum. However, if the student did not take a foundation course because he or she took Legal Reasoning in lieu of that foundation course, but that student has otherwise completed the Foundation Curriculum, that student is eligible for Law Review.

3. Part-time students. Part-time students are eligible if they have completed the Foundation Curriculum, an overall 2.67 cumulative grade point average (based only on curved classes), and a 2.67 GPA in their Legal Skills & Values I and II classes by the end of the fourth semester.

4. Transfer students. Transfer students who are not eligible for waiver as described below but who have completed two semesters of legal writing and have earned at least 28 credit hours are not required to have completed the Foundation Curriculum before participating on Law Review. The transfer student must have the required GPA, where the GPA from the legal writing courses from the previous institution will serve in lieu of the Legal Skills and Values I and II GPA.

B. Write-on competition.

1. Students who wish to join Law Review must participate in the write-on competition in accordance with the competition rules. The Executive Editorial Board (EEB) in consultation with the LRFA determine the competition rules.

2. Timing.

   a. Full-time students must compete in the write-on competition immediately following the Spring semester of the 1L year to be eligible for membership. Full-time, joint degree students must compete in the write-on competition immediately following the completion of the Foundation Curriculum and preceding their leave of absence from the College of Law.

   b. Part-time students must compete with the full-time 1L class that is finishing at the same time the part-time students are completing their fourth semester.

   c. Transfer students not otherwise eligible for waiver must compete the first week of the Fall semester of the 2L year.

3. Components.

   a. The write-on competition includes a writing assignment approved and administered by the EEB.

   b. The write-on competition also includes a Bluebook examination testing the student's knowledge of the current edition of The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation. The student's invitation to join the law review will be based only on the student's writing assignment score. However, the student may not receive academic credit for his or her participation on Law Review until he or she receives a passing score, as determined by the EEB, on the Bluebook exam.

   4. The write-on competition submission will be submitted on a blind (anonymous) basis.
5. Immediately after receiving the written submissions, the EEB will provide the Registrar with the blind IDs of the students who are competing so that the Registrar may begin checking eligibility requirements.

6. Plagiarism.

   a. Plagiarism violates the FIU Law Student Code of Conduct. According to Article 1 section 1.02(a)(1) of the FIU Law Student Code of Conduct, “A student shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly include . . . work or ideas of another without proper attribution [including] (a) the misappropriation of language taken verbatim, or nearly verbatim, from other sources without crediting the author of the original work by use of both quotation marks and footnotes or other appropriate forms of attribution, (b) the misappropriation of the original ideas of another without appropriate attribution, and (c) the misappropriation of the original pattern of ideas or organization of one or more original works over a substantial portion of the paper.”

   b. Immediately after receiving the written submissions, the EEB will provide the LRFA with all written submissions. The LRFA will check the submissions for plagiarism and report cases of suspected plagiarism to the Associate Dean for Academics. In addition to any other appropriate sanctions, students found to have committed plagiarism may not participate in Law Review. If requested, the LRFA will provide the EEB an originalism score, noting that that score itself does not indicate plagiarism.

C. Invitations.

1. Number. The EEB will determine the number of invitations to extend based on the staffing requirements of the Law Review, keeping in mind the historical trend for transfer student applications and waivers.

2. Grading. A full-time faculty member will grade the submissions for quality and provide the EEB the results. Invitations will be extended based on those results, while implementing the grade factor.

3. Grade Factor. The top day and night students will be extended an invitation provided they participate in the competition. The remaining students in the top ten percent of their full-time class at the end of the 1L year, or part-time class at the end of the third semester, will be offered an invitation to join the Law Review provided they are in the top two-thirds of the grading.

4. Transfer Student Waiver. The Law Review will honor invitations from the transfer student’s previous school to join the law review of that school provided the transfer student competed in the previous school’s write-on competition, and that competition included both a writing component and a Bluebook component. The Law Review will honor conditional invitations if those invitations are conditioned on post-competition requirements (like writing a student note during the 2L year or attending mandatory training).
5. Invitations to join Law Review will be extended in the first week of July. Students whose submissions did not qualify for an invitation will be notified at the same time without revealing their names to any law students.

6. Students invited to become Staff Members shall notify the EEB of their decision to accept the invitation no later than the date indicated in the invitation. Students invited to become Members who do not accept the invitation by the date indicated, or who do not respond to the invitation, will be presumed to have declined the invitation to participate on Law Review. The EEB has the discretion to allow a late acceptance.

7. At the EEB’s discretion, a wait-list of alternative members may be established. The EEB may, at its discretion, extend an invitation to the Law Review to such wait-listed participants within a reasonable time after the competition and before work on the Law Review begins in the fall.

D. Appeals.

1. As part of the competition instructions, students will be put on notice of the ability to appeal. Students denied invitation to Law Review may appeal to the LRFA that there was an error in procedure or in the calculation of scores for write-on competition. These are the only basis for appeal.

2. A student appellant must submit a written appeal to the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) within seven calendar days of receiving the invitation denial from Law Review. If the decision is not appealed in a timely manner, the original decision stands.

3. The EIC must provide a copy of these procedures to the appellant.

4. Upon receiving the appeal, the EIC will provide a copy of the submitted appeal and the appellant’s competition materials to the LRFA.

5. Within ten days, the LRFA will review the competition materials, the appeal request, and the scoring materials from the competition. The LRFA will decide the appeal by applying a de novo standard for compliance with procedures or calculation of scores. Following this review, the LRFA will direct the EEB to extend an invitation to the candidate or will uphold the original decision. The LRFA must notify the EEB and the appellant of its decision in writing within ten days of the decision. The decision of the LRFA is final.

III. WRITING REQUIREMENT.

A. During the fall and spring semesters of the first year of membership, the Member will complete a paper of passing quality. Members must complete either a student Comment or a co-authored article with a professor.

B. The LRFA will determine the length of the paper; the types of submissions that will further the academic purposes of a multi-draft paper; and the submission deadlines. The LRFA will provide a memorandum to the Student Comment Faculty Advisors (SCFA) outlining the paper requirements.
C. The Executive Comments Editor will provide the LRFA with a list by the fourth week of September of the names of the participating Members and their respective SCFA.

D. Whether a Comment is of passing quality contains both subjective and objective elements.

1. Objective elements include, but are not limited to, meeting all deadlines and meeting the required word count and number of footnotes. The Executive Comments Editor will track these requirements and report to the SCFA any discrepancies.

2. Subjective elements include, but are not limited to, writing style, organization, and quality of legal reasoning and analysis. Subjective elements will be evaluated by the Member’s SCFA. The SCFA will grade the paper Pass or Fail.

E. The LRFA will maintain the grade sheet and a copy of the submitted paper for one year.

F. All submissions will be checked for plagiarism by the LRFA. Once the final papers are submitted, the Executive Comments Editor will forward the papers to the LRFA.

IV. SELECTION OF EDITORS.

A. Qualifications. All Editors must exemplify the following qualities: excellent command of grammar and composition; excellent editorial and citation skills; attention to detail; good understanding of the current state of the law in many subjects; an ability to work with fellow students and faculty members; strong organizational skills; strong time management skills; honesty and integrity; and a strong devotion to producing an excellent Law Review. Additionally, Editors should have the ability to: supervise others; work with outside authors who are writing articles for the Law Review; set and enforce deadlines; and offer constructive criticism.

B. Expectations.

1. Each Editor must be able to serve a term of one year beginning the last day of classes in the spring semester. Staff Members selected to become Editors are expected to serve for the full academic year.

2. An Editor must be readily available and must engage in substantial Law Review editorial work and production during the summer, fall, and spring semesters. The work level of an editorial position is comparable to that found in a demanding part-time legal job.

3. Members interested in becoming the EIC or Executive Symposium Editor must commit to not engaging in outside employment during their tenure if they are selected for those positions.

C. Eligibility.

1. To be eligible for an Editor position, a candidate must be a Member of the Law Review in good standing who has successfully completed at least two semesters on the Law Review and has met such qualifications as may be specified by the EEB, in consultation with the
LRFA. Transfer students are eligible for an editorial position during the students’ second year of participation.

2. Members on Academic Probation are not eligible to be elected to any editorial position.

3. Members sanctioned for misconduct in accordance with §7.01 of the College of Law Student Handbook are not eligible to be elected to any editorial position.

4. No Member may hold more than one editorial position, except the Executive Business Editor may also hold the NCLR President position.

D. Selection. The incoming EEB and Articles/Comments Editors will be selected by the following process:

1. Interested Members must submit the requested number of copies of the following documents: a cover page, a resume, cover letter, current unofficial law school transcript, a list of two faculty references, and a list of the editorial positions indicating the order of their preference, to the current EIC via the requested method; and sign up for an interview on the TWEN page.

2. The EEB and Articles Editors must complete diversity and inclusion training before voting on the incoming positions.

3. The EEB and Articles Editors will then meet and review all applications. The EEB and Articles Editors must then interview each applicant.

4. The EEB and Articles Editors will then elect the new EEB and Articles/Comments Editors by secret ballot. Appointment to any position requires a majority vote.

5. Appointments must be made no later than the end of the January of each spring semester.

6. Notification of Appointment Results.

   a. The outgoing EIC will notify the LRFA of the appointment results within one business day of the appointment.

   b. The LRFA may veto any appointment.

   c. The outgoing EIC will then notify the applicants of the position they have been appointed. The appointed Members must accept or reject the position within forty-eight hours of being notified. After all positions have been filled, the outgoing EIC will inform the rest of the Members about the appointment results.

E. Transition.

1. The new EEB and Articles/Comments Editors take office on the last day of classes during the spring semester. The incoming EEB will work with the outgoing EEB in a transition and training period from the time of appointment until the end of the spring semester.
2. Following the appointment of the incoming EEB, the incoming and outgoing EEBs will meet to discuss operation of the Law Review for the upcoming year. New EEB Members are expected to work closely with the outgoing EEB during the Spring semester.

F. Resignations and vacancies.

1. Resignations. EEB Editors and Articles/Comments Editors may resign their position and thereby return to the status of Staff Member on the Law Review. The nature and timing of the resignation will be evaluated by the LRFA when the LRFA decides whether to grant academic credit for the Member’s participation on Law Review.

2. Vacancies: If an EEB Editor or Articles/Comments Editor position becomes vacant, the appropriate selection provisions above apply.

VI. SANCTIONING MEMBERS.

A. General.

1. Members must not permit employment activities or other co-curricular activities (including other student groups, such as the Student Bar Association or the Board of Advocates) to adversely affect or otherwise interfere with their ability to complete their required duties in an efficient, effective, and timely manner.

2. All Members must attend all mandatory meetings and events. Exceptions may only be granted by, and at the sole discretion of, the EIC, due to medical emergencies or other extraordinary circumstances, or religious holidays with sufficient notice.

3. Staff Members. Staff Members who fail to complete assignments, fail to submit assignments in a timely manner, or otherwise fail to comply with the requirements of membership may be sanctioned.

4. Articles/Comments Editors. Articles/Comments Editors who fail to complete their editorial responsibilities, fail to submit assignments in a timely manner, or otherwise fail to comply with the requirements of membership may be sanctioned.

5. EEB Editors. EEB Editors who fail to execute their editorial responsibilities in a timely or complete manner or otherwise fail to comply with the requirements of membership may be sanctioned.

6. Academic Probation or Student Misconduct. Placement of any Member on Academic Probation or sanction for misconduct by the FIU Law Administration during a Member’s Law Review tenure may result in sanctions. These cases will be referred directly from the FIU Law Administration to the LRFA for consideration under a hearing authorized to impose suspension or dismissal.

B. Minor violations.

1. Any Member on the EEB may recommend to the EIC that he or she issue a “strike” for any Member for a minor violation. A strike is appropriate to document a failure to
meet standards that does not alone warrant formal sanctions, and a strike is not a sanction for purposes of awarding credit as described in the Constitution.

2. Following a strike recommendation, the EEB should consult the Student Agreement; the Member Handbook; the Law Review Constitution, Bylaws, and Executive Handbook; and the FIU College of Law Student Code of Conduct to determine whether the Member has failed to meet standards.

3. Prior to issuing a Member’s first strike, the EIC must speak in person or telephonically with the Member to explain the strike system generally and the reason for the specific strike.

4. The EIC may, in his or her discretion, issue a strike by notifying the Member in writing of the strike and internally recording the strike.

5. Members may not appeal strikes.

C. Formal Sanctions.

1. Formal sanctions include, but are not limited to, oral or written admonition or reprimand, demotion from position of responsibility to Staff Member, suspension, or dismissal. The decision by the LRFA to not award academic credit as described in the Constitution is not a sanction within the meaning of this section.

2. Formal sanctions are appropriate for repeated, minor failures to meet standards or for major infractions. The EEB should consult the Student Agreement; the Member Handbook; the Law Review Constitution, Bylaws, and Executive Handbook; and the FIU College of Law Student Code of Conduct to determine whether the Member has failed to meet standards.

D. Good Cause for Formal Sanctions. Good cause for imposing sanctions includes but is not limited to:

1. Failure to complete an assignment in a timely and effective manner.
2. Failure to attend mandatory meetings and events.
3. Failure to fulfill his or her responsibilities as enumerated above.
4. Unethical or dishonest conduct.
5. Conduct that adversely affects the Law Review or the editing process.
6. Insubordination.
7. Violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
8. Academic probation or sanction for misconduct by the FIU College of Law administration.

E. Procedure.
1. Any Member on the EEB may initiate proceedings to sanction any Member for exceptional failure to meet standards. The EEB must also initiate sanction proceedings for any Member issued a third strike. The EEB must notify the LRFA of any misconduct which could merit suspension or dismissal.

2. Hearings not authorized to suspend or dismiss.
   
   a. Proceedings must be initiated by written submission to the EEB and the Member facing sanction stating the reasons for sanction and the recommendation (e.g. demotion, probation, etc.).
   
   b. The EIC will preside over any sanctions hearing. The Executive Managing Editors will assume the EIC’s role during proceedings if the EEB seeks to sanction the EIC. The Member will be given an opportunity to present any relevant facts or circumstances as to the commission of the offense or the appropriate sanction.
   
   c. The EEB must vote as to whether the offense occurred (by a preponderance of the evidence) and if the offense did occur, what the appropriate sanction should be. Both steps require a two-thirds vote of the EEB.
   
   d. Members who are sanctioned may appeal that the EEB abused its discretion, in writing, within thirty days, to the LRFA.
   
   e. Within ten days of the appeal, the LRFA will review evidence supporting the EEB’s decision to impose sanctions as well as the appellant’s evidence supporting the appeal. The LRFA will review the EEB’s decision for abuse of discretion. Following this review, the LRFA will affirm the EEB’s decision or direct the EEB to reverse the sanctions. The LRFA must notify the EEB and the appellant of its recommendation in writing, within ten days of the decision. The decision of the LRFA is final.

4. Hearings authorized to suspend or dismiss.

   a. The LRFA will preside over hearings authorized to suspend or dismiss a Member. Any sanction, including those less severe than suspension or dismissal, are authorized at these hearings. The Member will be given an opportunity to present any relevant facts or circumstances as to the commission of the offense or the appropriate sanction.
   
   b. The LRFA may take into consideration factors such as grade point average, unique circumstances of the Member, current Law Review work product, and any other relevant factor in determining the appropriate sanction.
   
   c. The LRFA must decide as to whether the offense occurred (by a preponderance of the evidence) and if the offense did occur, what the appropriate sanction should be. The decision of the LRFA is final.

5. If a Member is placed on probation, the Member shall have one semester to improve, remain free of violations, or both. After one semester on probation, the body that imposed the sanction may lift the probation with no further notice to the Member. If the Member
has not improved or has committed additional violations, the body may pursue further sanctions consistent with these procedures listed above.

VII. PUBLICATION OF STUDENT WORK.

A. Staff Members who would like to publish their Comments in the Law Review may submit their completed Comment for review by the EEB. The EEB will evaluate submissions using blind IDs. The EEB will review each 2L’s Comment for quality of writing; for addressing an area of current interest; novelty of argument; and likelihood of being referenced by those in the field. The EEB will create an order of merit for publication and submit that list to the LRFA. The LRFA will contact the Student Comment Faculty Advisor for each recommended Comment to confirm suitability for publication and may remove a Comment based on that feedback.

B. The Law Review retains the right of first refusal as to Member comments created under the supervision of the Executive Comments Editor until the EEB rejects their Comment for publication. Comments submitted after the deadline set for EEB review are still subject to the right of first refusal.

C. Student-authored Comments written under the supervision a full-time faculty member as part of an FIU Law seminar may be considered for publication upon the recommendation of that faculty member. These Comments will be evaluated with the Staff Member comments as described above.

VIII. AMENDMENTS. The policies established in these Bylaws are binding on the Law Review. Material provisions may be amended only by a majority vote of the members of a committee designated by the dean for such a purpose. Non-material provisions may be amended by the LRFA. The EIC may recommend amendments to the LRFA.