**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**

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The *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law* (*JCL*) provides a forum for the academic advancement and interdisciplinary study of constitutional law. It does so by publishing five to six issues each year via print and electronic mediums. *JCL* celebrates innovative scholarship, the promotion of critical perspectives, and the reinvention of the traditional study of constitutional law.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the *Journal* will publish its 26th Volume. Even as a young Journal, *JCL* has emerged as the leading constitutional law Journal globally. In fact, *JCL* remains the only Ivy League publication that exclusively publishes issues of constitutional law and is one of six non-law review publications ranked in the top 50 of Journals in terms of most citations and impact. As a result of *JCL*’s position within the legal academy, the *Journal* has published and collaborated with some of the foremost constitutional scholars from across the world, including the Honorable Amy Coney Barrett, the Honorable Douglas Ginsburg, the Honorable Sandra Day O’Connor, the Honorable Guido Calabresi, Richard Epstein, Laurence Tribe, Seth Kreimer, Kermit Roosevelt III, Erwin Chemerinsky, Marci Hamilton, Barry Cushman, Sandy Levinson, Martin Redish, David Rudovsky, Mark Tushnet, and Jerry Mashaw. Each article has impacted and shaped the contours of constitutional law.

In addition to its print and electronic publications, *JCL* sponsors an annual symposium in coordination with the National Constitution Center. Previous topics include the effect of executive power on immigration, student activism, and educational equality. The 2023 Symposium was titled the “History, Development, and Future of the Fourteenth Amendment” in which the keynote speaker was Hillary Schneller, the co-lead counsel in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*.

The responsibilities of Associate Editors include participating in the editing phases of publication and learning the editorial and administrative tasks associated with legal journals. In particular, Associate Editors’ primary editing responsibilities include: using online databases to search and secure original images of documents, ensuring citations comply with Bluebook rules, and verifying that sources provide support for the author’s proposition. Furthermore, by serving on committees of their choice, Associate Editors contribute to specific aspects of Journal-life. Those committees include but are not limited to *JCL Online*, Comments, Symposium, and the Development Committee. Although committees are low-commitment, they enable Associate Editors to gain leadership experience, help with the substantive and administrative requirements of the *Journal*, and prepare Editors for a role as an Executive Board member during their 3L year.

Associate Editors are also strongly encouraged to submit a comment on any topic related to constitutional law. Writing a comment is not a *JCL* requirement, however, comment submissions will satisfy the Law School’s senior writing requirement if overseen by a faculty member. Outstanding comments are selected for publication in the *Journal* and have touched on a variety of topics, such as the diversity implications of legacy admissions, the use of AI in litigation, and the constitutional implications of police access to online heritage websites. In addition, the *Journal* publishes the winning essay from the Constance Baker Motley National Student Writing Competition, hosted annually by the American Constitution Society (ACS) and its Penn Law chapter.

Associate Editors participate substantially in the editorial process of all five to six issues during their 2L year and will receive one academic credit. During their 3L year, Editors are encouraged to serve on the Board or as a Senior Editor but neither is required as *JCL* is a one-year commitment. Board members receive 2-3 academic credits depending on their Board position. Senior Editors receive one academic credit.

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

***JCL* Direct Application**

This Direct Application consists of the following parts:

1. Five (5) Short Answer Questions
2. Your Resume

Your application is only considered complete if it answers all five short answer questions and includes a 1-2 page resume.

We assure you that your identity will remain anonymous to the *JCL* members reading and making decisions regarding your application. Only the Managing Editor––who will be completely removed from the application evaluation process–– will know your identity for the purposes of verifying the application materials’ metadata are scrubbed and to match applicants’ anonymous files. **To ensure anonymity:**

1. **Please remove any identifying information (name, email, phone number, etc.) from your short answers and resume.**
2. **Combine your answers and resume into a single word document, and**
3. **Scrub the metadata from this file.**

**To scrub the metadata from your word document, please follow these steps:**

* For Mac Devices:
  + Save a copy of the file before performing this operation.
  + In the copy, click the Tools tab and then click Protect Document.
  + Under Privacy, click the box that says “Remove personal information on file on save”.
  + Save the document.
* For Microsoft Devices:
  + Save a copy of the file before performing this operation.
  + In the copy, click the File tab, and then click Info.
  + Click Check for Issues, and then select Inspect Document.
  + Click Inspect.
  + Click Remove All, but ONLY for “Document Properties and Personal Information.”
  + Save the document.

**A Word version of this application and additional details for scrubbing the metadata from your application can be found on our website, con.law.**

**Please email your complete, scrubbed applications to the Managing Editor, Veda Bhadharla, at** [**vedab@pennlaw.upenn.edu**](mailto:vedab@pennlaw.upenn.edu)**.**

We appreciate every single person that applies, and will reach out to each one of you with a decision before the registration for the Writing Competition closes. We sincerely hope that even if you do not apply to us using this Direct Application, or do apply but are not accepted, that you will still consider ranking us in the Writing Competition. Please do not hesitate to reach out to vedab@pennlaw.upenn.edu if you have any questions, and thank you for considering *JCL*!

**Short Answer Questions**

Please answer each of the following questions in 350 words or less.

1. **In general, why are you interested in joining a journal? What are you hoping to gain from this experience?** Your answer may include but is not limited to: your interest in scholarship and academia, your interest in writing a comment your 2L year, or your interest in serving on the Executive Board your 3L year. Your answer is non-binding, nor are you required to do any of these things to be a valuable member of *JCL*.
2. **Why are you interested in joining *JCL* specifically?**Your answer may include but is not limited to: any prior academic research experience, a demonstrated interest in constitutional law, an explanation of how being a *JCL*Editor will allow you to explore your budding interest in constitutional law, or any aspect of *JCL* that encouraged you to apply. Feel free to use the information we included above. You may also find more information on our website at con.law. To be clear, thoughtful responses are not responses that flaunt your knowledge of constitutional law; thoughtful answers demonstrate your interest in serving as a *JCL*Editor. Please note that the Direct Apply application process is binding.**If you Direct Apply to *JCL* and we extend you an offer, you must accept it. Please note that some Journals do not allow you to serve on multiple Journals. *JCL* permits Editors to serve on multiple Journals, but it is the applicant’s responsibility to learn which Journals allow Associate Editors to do so.**
3. **What experiences from your past do you think will help you be an effective *JCL* Editor?** Please note that *JCL*’s Executive Board will provide Bluebook training to all Associate Editors. Accordingly, an effective answer will clearly state reasons that make you a valuable member of the *JCL* community beyond your editing skills. Further, since you will also be submitting your resume please do not recount all of your past experiences. Instead, an effective answer may highlight 1-2 examples in which you were an effective leader and/or when you showed commitment to an organization.

1. **When you have a lot of work to do, how do you get it all done?** Please illustrate with either 1) an example of a time when you were particularly effective at prioritizing tasks and completing a project on schedule, or 2) a time that you failed to complete a project on time and the lessons you learned.
2. **As an academic journal at the forefront of shaping constitutional discourse, *JCL* celebrates diversity of all kinds and has a commitment to intellectual diversity in particular.** What kinds of diverse insights will you contribute? Your answer may include, but is not limited to, an explanation of how aspects of your background––whether it be race, gender, sexual-orientation, intellect, socioeconomic status, disability status, religion, or culture––will promote the goals of the *Journal*. ***JCL* Editors reviewing and deciding upon your application will not know the identities of who applied, and will not be able to match your identity to your response. Only the Managing Editor, who is removed from the reviewing and decision-making process, will know your identity.**