

ARTICLE PUBLICATION QUICK GUIDE

You have written an article and it is ready for publication. Here are your options.

Option One:

I want to distribute the article through an institutional repository or on a scholarly website.

Advantages: Instant publication and world-wide, free accessibility.

Disadvantages: If you are considering future publication of your article in a journal or law review, some publications require exclusive distribution and will not accept your article if it has already been published on a site such as SSRN.

Options for Law:

- **Digital Access to Scholarship at Harvard (DASH)**, <https://dash.harvard.edu>
HLS has a Student Papers Series
- **Social Science Research Network (SSRN)**, <https://www.ssrn.com/en/>
Law Scholarship Network (LSN) distributes articles through open legal subject matter e-journals

Option Two:

I want to publish the article in a journal or law review.

Step 1

Research and select appropriate journals and law reviews by looking at recent tables of contents to see if your article fits well with the editorial style or the subject matter addressed by the journal (this is easy to do if you use the HeinOnline Law Journal Library). Look at the tables of contents for the following types of journals: journals you cite to in your article; journals in which faculty in your subject area publish; and journals ranked highly within specific subject areas as listed on sites such as the *Washington and Lee University's Law Journals: Submissions and Ranking, 2009 – 2020* (<http://bit.ly/hlswandl18>).

Step 2

Submit the article to multiple journals at the same time through an article submission service, individually via e-mail, or a combination of the two. Some journals require exclusive submission through the journal website or exclusive submission through **Scholastica**, an article submission service which requires out-of-pocket payment: <https://scholasticahq.com/>. (ExpressO closed in June 2021.)

You will need to include a cover letter and your current CV with your article submission. See the Concurring Opinions blog's *Sample Law Review Submission Cover Letters* (<https://bit.ly/sample-law-review-letters>); samples also appear in Eugene Volokh's book, *Academic Legal Writing* (<https://bit.ly/volokhbook>).

Step 3

Wait for the journals to send offers to publish. After receiving one offer to publish, you may ask for expedited review by the journals that have not yet issued offers.

Step 4

Respond to the best offer to publish and review and sign the journal's Publication Agreement. Issues to watch for that impose restrictions on authors' rights: signing over copyright; requiring multi-year embargoes or restrictions on future use of the article including classroom use or publication as a chapter in a book; or limiting distribution of pre-publication drafts of the article on institutional websites. For more, see *An Introduction to Copyright Resources for Authors* (<https://sparcopen.org/our-work/author-rights/introduction-to-copyright-resources/>).

See *Publishing in Law Reviews and Journals* at <https://guides.library.harvard.edu/gettingpublished>, for additional information, as well as resources for students interested in entering writing competitions.

Questions? Schedule an appointment with a librarian <http://asklib.law.harvard.edu>.