

Overview of BU Law Journals

Spring 2024



**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**



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Introduction to Journals at BU Law

Journal Jargon

Articles

Legal scholarship written by professors and practitioners and published by journals

Tech Check

Editing parts of an article for grammar and conformance with the Bluebook rules

Source Coord

Gathering the original sources cited in each work to be published

Copyedit

Final round of editing before publication

Note

An approximately 30-page paper written by law students analyzing a legal issue that can be published

Upper-Class Writing Requirement

Graduation requirement at BU Law that can be fulfilled by a Note

Symposium

Conference where contributors share ideas, presentations, and essays revolving around a certain theme or subject



What is a law journal?

Law journals publish scholarly articles that address contemporary legal issues.

- Most law journals are student-run and advised by at least one faculty member.
- Articles are written by professors or practitioners and will typically identify the legal issue and then propose a solution.
- While some law reviews may be focused on a particular topic, subject matter is generally broad in focus.
- Other law journals are often subject-matter specific (i.e., publish articles specific to one area of law, such as the *American Journal of Law and Medicine*).

BU Law has six student-run, nationally recognized journals.

- These journals publish from one to seven times per year.
- Students at BU Law receive academic credit for their work on the law journals.
- Students write a Note that can be submitted for publication as well as satisfy the upper-class writing requirement.



Law Review Articles

Law review articles may discuss subjects such as:

- Data Privacy and Patents
- Policing Reform and Affirmative action
- NFTs and Retail Investing
- And even Microdosing Psychedelics

Articles may explore pressing legal issues before they are addressed by courts.

- Courts often cite law review articles as support for decisions, particularly at the appellate level. For example, Justice Gorsuch cited then-Professor Amy Coney Barrett's BU Law Review article in West Virginia v. EPA

ARTICLE

MICRODOSING PSYCHEDELICS UNDER LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAW

MASON MARKS,* I. GLENN COHEN,**
JONATHAN PEREZ-REYZIN*** & DAVID ANGELATOS****

ABSTRACT

Microdosing psychedelic substances ("microdosing") is a growing trend that has gained significant media and scientific attention. The practice typically involves consuming low doses of psychedelics, such as psilocybin or lysergic acid diethylamide ("LSD"), two or three times per week, over the course of weeks or months. Many claim that microdosing improves attention, creativity, or mood. Some say it reduces pain as well as symptoms of anxiety, depression, and migraine or cluster headaches. Others fear it has not been proven safe or effective by randomized controlled trials. Nevertheless, the microdosing trend is growing against the backdrop of a broader psychedelic renaissance characterized by increasing interest in researching, legalizing, consuming, and commercializing psychedelics. This Article is the first to address the legal status of microdosing under local, state, and federal law. It analyzes the national trend toward psychedelic legal reform and how it affects the legal status of people who microdose.

NOTE

PREVENTING THE EPISTEMIC HARM OF TESTIMONIAL INJUSTICE IN LAY WITNESS CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENTS

Julian A. Burlando-Salazar*

ABSTRACT

Our legal system's recognition of injustice is incomplete. Epistemic injustice—injustice that inflicts harm on an individual's capacity to possess knowledge—has gone largely undiscussed. One form of epistemic injustice is testimonial injustice, or harm to a person's capacity as a knower of information. This harm is distinct from a more general credibility harm. It refers to harm that damages an individual's perception of their own knowledge and experiences, and whether they feel as if they have the epistemic and communicative tools to convey that information. These concepts have been more commonly applied to ordinary epistemic practices, such as everyday conversations, making sense of social experiences, or democratic institutions. Yet their application in the law is less common. This Note seeks to join scholars like Jasmine B. Gonzales Rose and S. Lisa Washington by importing an epistemic injustice lens into legal analyses. In doing so, this Note focuses on lay witness testimony, which plays an essential role in determining the veracity and value of plaintiffs' legal claims. Yet misplaced narratives and improperly wielded cross-examination strategies may cause witnesses to suffer testimonial injustice through testimonial quieting or testimonial smothering. Epistemic harm, as it is inflicted in lay witness testimony, is worsened by a pernicious power imbalance between marginalized and nonmarginalized groups.

What do law students do on journals?

Student editors conduct research and edit articles before publication.

- Editorial work includes checking citations and related facts, correcting grammar and spelling errors, and offering suggestions to the content of the article.

Students write a note that can be submitted for publication.

- Student notes engage with legal issues from a different perspective and offer new insights. E.g. *Preventing the Epistemic Harm of Testimonial Injustice in Lay Witness Credibility Assessments*

As members of an editorial board, students review and select the articles for publication each year.

- Board members are typically third-year students who take on additional responsibilities.

Citation Basics

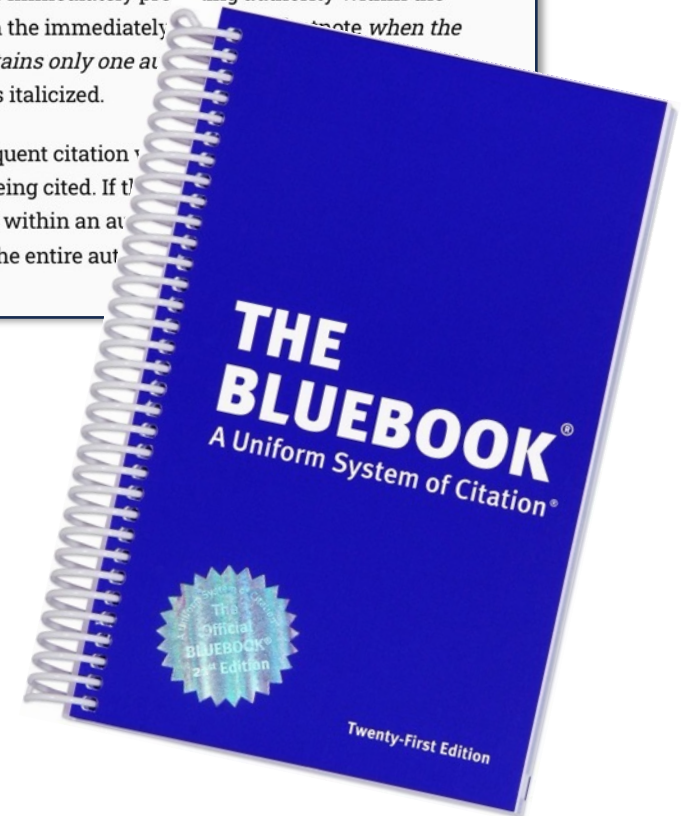
The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation

- Most commonly used rules for legal citations in the U.S.
- Two main parts
 - Bluepages: basic legal citations (i.e., non-academic legal documents for practitioners)
 - White pages: rules of citation and style for academic publications (i.e., law journals and research papers)
 - Tables: supplement to the rules

4.1 “Id.”

“Id.” may be used in citation sentences and clauses for any kind of authority except internal cross-references (as described in [rule 3.5](#)). In court documents and legal memoranda, use “id.” when citing the immediately preceding authority, *but only when the immediately preceding citation contains only one authority*. In law review footnotes, use “id.” when citing the immediately preceding authority within the same footnote or within the immediately preceding footnote *when the preceding footnote contains only one authority*. The end of “id.” is always italicized.

Indicate where a subsequent citation refers to a specific page number being cited. If the cited work is a shorter work contained within an authority, use “*id.*” for a subsequent citation to the entire authority (see [rule 4.2\(a\)](#)).



Citation Basics

Chicago Manual of Style

- Provides grammatical and stylistic rules for publications.

7: Spelling, Distinctive Treatment of Words, and Compounds

7.32: “A” and “an” before “h”

Chapter Contents / “A” and “An”

The indefinite article *a*, not *an*, is used in English before words beginning with a pronounced *h*. (British English differs from American English in not pronouncing the *h* in many cases; when in doubt, check a standard dictionary.) See also 5.74.

a hotel

a historical study

but

an honor

an heir



Citation Basics

Law Review Style Guides



LAW REVIEW STYLE GUIDE

Boston University School of Law

24) Main Page Titles and Domain Names for Websites (Bluebook Rule 18.2.2(b)(i))

Bluebook Rule 18.2.2(b)(ii) instructs that main page titles should be abbreviated in accordance with tables T6, T10, and T13. By *Law Review* convention, we always drop “The” if it is the first word in a domain name.

- *How the Administrative State Took Away Law Review Credits*, FEDERALIST SOC’Y, <https://fedsoc.org/about-us#FAQ> [<https://perma.cc/8K8K-5CFR>] (last visited Nov. 8, 2021).
- **Not:** *How the Administrative State Took Away Law Review Credits*, THE FEDERALIST SOC’Y, <https://fedsoc.org/about-us#FAQ> [<https://perma.cc/8K8K-5CFR>] (last visited Nov. 8, 2021).

Citation Basics

The Maroonbook

- Alternative to the Bluebook (not relevant today)
- *"To the Maroonbook authors, the [Bluebook] commits the most heinous of sins: It's inefficient."*

THE MAROONBOOK

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MANUAL OF LEGAL CITATION

The University of Chicago Law Review



Why join a journal?

- Develop skills in legal research, writing, and time management
- Engage with legal scholarship and sharpen your attention to detail
- Connect with a community of 2Ls, 3Ls, and alums who share similar interests
- Strengthen your resume, especially for clerkship applications
- Satisfy the upper-class writing requirement
- And more!

Any Disadvantages?

- Can be challenging to balance responsibilities during 2L
- May not be the right fit for your personal and professional interests
- Take time to reflect and choose what makes most sense for you!

How do I join a journal at BU Law?

The Writing Competition

A week-long assignment run by the *Law Review* where participants edit footnotes in accordance with the Bluebook, write a memo on an assigned legal issue, and answer three short personal statement prompts.

- Participation in the Writing Competition is voluntary
- Between two-thirds and three-quarters of first-year class participate year-to-year

What is considered?

- While the criteria for each journal is different, the following are considered by the *Law Review*: GPA, Writing Competition score, and Personal Statement score
- Participants may also choose to write an addendum if they find it appropriate
- 1Ls and transfer students interested in journal membership may participate

Accessibility in the Writing Competition

The *Boston University Law Review* strives to make the writing competition accessible for all students who wish to participate.

As such, the *Law Review* has written a comprehensive accommodations and modifications policy to ensure that the writing competition does not prevent participation or disadvantage students for circumstances such as:

- A religious observance; a disability, such as a learning, attention, mental health, vision, mobility, or other physical or health-related concern; racial trauma; or a personal emergency that would preclude your participation

BU Law's Student Affairs Office works with the *Law Review* to anonymize students' personal information and provide a reasonable accommodation or schedule modification.

BU Law Journals

Boston University Law Review

American Journal of Law and Medicine

International Law Journal

Journal of Science and Technology

Public Interest Law Journal

Review of Banking and Financial Law



BOSTON UNIVERSITY

LAW REVIEW

What We Do ([website](#))

- Publish the work of scholars addressing a wide variety of novel legal issues
- Seven publications per year: February, March, April, May, September, October, and December
- Take articles and notes through a five- round editing process that includes source coords, tech checks, and copyedits

2L Responsibilities

- Editorial assignments, including source coords and tech checks
- 30-page note on any legal topic

Law Review Specific Information

- 2-year commitment for all members
- General subject matter journal with work on a diverse range of legal topics

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

LAW REVIEW

Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

- Commitment to making *Law Review* a diverse and inclusive community in all we do—our selection of members, the authors we choose to publish, etc.
- D&I Editors on our Editorial Board participate in article selection processes, help develop the personal statement and memo of the Writing Competition, and serve as managing editors on our February book
- February D&I book is dedicated to issues of race and gender, with a focus on publishing diverse and untenured authors

Selection Criteria

- Roughly 15% of the first-year class will receive an offer of membership (approx. 45 students)
- 9 students drawn from the top 3 students per section with the highest GPA, so long as those students score within the top one-third of the Writing Competition
- 16-18 students drawn from a pool of with the highest Writing Competition scores
- 16-18 students drawn from a pool based on a holistic consideration of students' grades, Writing Competition scores, and personal statements

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF LAW & MEDICINE

AJLM is the nation's leading peer-reviewed health law journal. ([website](#))

- Published with the *American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics*
- Selection Criteria: Footnote portion of the writing competition, statement of interest in AJLM, and GPA
- Publish 4 times per year- Winter, Spring, and a double issue in Summer/Fall

2L Editorial Responsibilities

- Periodic assignments: source coords and tech checks
- 30-page note on health-related topic
- Take health law course/seminar
- Dues: \$TBD (socials, swag, snacks; 2021-2022 dues were \$20 in total)
- Optional: publish Recent Case Development or Recent Transactional Comment

Annual Symposium

Host Volunteer Blood Drive



BOSTON UNIVERSITY
International Law Journal

Overview ([website](#))

- Selection Criteria: writing competition score, GPA, ILJ Recognition Bonus
- One publication per year
- Fortress North America Vol.

2L Responsibilities

- Source coords and tech checks
- ~ 30-page Note (public or private international law)
- 1-Credit International Law Research (8-week experiential credit course)
- One Course in International Law (e.g., Int'l Human Rights, Int'l Business Transactions)



Journal of Science & Technology Law

Overview ([website](#))

- Publishes two times per year

2L Responsibilities

- Editing and citation checking a number of assignments throughout the Fall and Spring Semesters
- 2L Editors must also produce a student note during their 2L year

Other Journal-Specific Requirements

- A background in technology is not required to be a member of JoSTL

Selection Criteria

- GPA & writing competition score

Overview ([website](#))

- Selection Criteria: writing competition score, GPA, and personal statement
- Publishes two times per year- Fall and Spring

2L Editorial Responsibilities

- Source coords and tech checks

Note Criteria

- Public Interest focus (including Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Family Law, education, business, regulation, environmental)
- 7,500-word minimum (excluding footnotes)

Other PILJ-Specific Information

- Each 2L editor will be matched with a 3L for mentorship and to aid their transition onto PILJ
- Apparel
- No course requirement
- Dues (\$TBD)
- End-of-Year Banquet



Boston University School of Law
Review of Banking and Financial Law

Overview ([website](#))

Selection Criteria

- 50% writing comp, 40% grades, 10% diversity/personal statement
- No finance background needed!

2L Responsibilities

- Source coords and tech checks
- We publish twice a year → manageable schedule
- Course requirement

Writing Opportunities

- Student Note on a topic related to banking/finance (broadly construed)
- Development Article
 - Opportunity to write about new issues in finance
 - Nearly everyone publishes



Ready to learn more?

Writing Competition Questions
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Journal Questions

American Journal of Law & Medicine: ajlm@bu.edu

International Law Journal: builj@bu.edu

Journal of Science & Technology Law: jostl@bu.edu

Law Review: lawrev@bu.edu

Public Interest Law Journal: pilj@bu.edu

Review of Banking & Financial Law: rbfl@bu.edu