

Law 511-002 | Law Journal Management – Civil Rights Law Journal (CRLJ)

Spring 2025 | 1 credit

Professor(s): Taylor Lane Daymude (he/him)

“For more than three-quarters of a century, turning to the scholars in our profession has meant turning to the student-edited law journals. In these publications, practicing lawyers and professors have recorded their views on the pressing issues of their times and student authors have often contributed fresh outlooks to problems which have bewildered the experienced attorney. . . There are many such publications, and the Supreme Court looks upon them as its most responsible critics.”

Chief Justice Earl Warren, 1 CREIGHTON L. REV. 7, 7-8 (1968)

Reading(s): All required reading materials are available on our TWEN page.

Communication(s): tlaneday@gmu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to CRLJ and congratulations on your selection as an editor! Legal scholarship publication is unique. With few exceptions, law students—rather than professors, scholars, or paid professionals—select and edit the articles that appear on the influential pages of law journals. Student editors gain extensive editing and management skills while leading a journal. However, institutional knowledge is too often lost when editors graduate.

Law Journal Management is designed to facilitate the transfer of knowledge between outgoing and incoming editors and to improve the management of journals as a whole. The course covers article selection and editing, the production process, membership selection, and the role of student-run law journals in legal scholarship. In addition, this course seeks to help establish your new editorial board’s momentum and knowledge of this process, in addition to increasing the dialogue among the journals with the goal of improving journal management at the law school.

Civil rights law is a critical and evolving field. It is complex, nuanced, and political. Civil rights law deals at once with the personal and the societal. It forces us to examine not only our role in a community, but also government, religion, culture, and history. It aims to define liberty, freedom, and privacy. We look to civil rights law journals both for what the law is and for what the law should be. Unlike your other courses, this is when you start to contribute to the development of the law. Welcome to legal academia.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, incoming editors will:

- Establish a team relationship with fellow editors;
- Understand the role of student-run law journals in legal scholarship;
- Obtain specific knowledge applicable to their editor position, including lessons learned by outgoing editors;

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- Understand the functions of each member of the Board of Editors and the process involved in selecting and editing articles, publishing the journal, and selecting journal membership;
- Establish relationships with counterparts on other Journals and the George Mason Law Review;
- Develop a strategy for the coming year; and,
- Revise and adopt a standardized CRLJ Handbook to streamline operations.

GRADING & PARTICIPATION

Law Journal Management will be graded on a pass-fail basis and is worth one academic credit. Final grades will be based on:

1. **Participation**—This course is a collaborative process, requiring the full engagement of all students. Specifically, students will be required to:
 - a. Be prepared to discuss brief reading assignments, described by this syllabus.
 - b. Attend at least 2 individual meetings, described by this syllabus.
 - c. Submit a summary of these individual meetings to the professor, including the date and time, within 48 hours of the meeting, copying (1) the editor you met with and (2) your newly selected Editor-in-Chief (EIC) and Executive Editor (EE).
2. **Attendance**—All new board members should attend all class sessions. Law School Academic Regulations require you to attend at least 11 of the 15 hours of instruction this semester. Please note:
 - a. Attendance will be recorded. If you are unable to attend a class, you must email (1) the professor, (2) the outgoing & incoming EIC, and (3) the outgoing & incoming EE prior to the start of class. We will work with you to make up the class.
 - b. Scheduling will be finalized once the board selects editors. The majority of the class will likely take place on Fridays or weekends when everyone is available.
3. **Final Project**—This course will culminate with updating and adopting the CRLJ Handbook.

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COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

	ASSIGNMENT	DISCUSSION TOPICS
Class 1 (2 hours)	Read: CRLJ LJM Syllabus Read: CRLJ Handbook, Introduction, Ch. I, V	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of CRLJ • Role of student-run law journals • Role of the editorial board
Required Meeting 1 (2 hours)	<p>Incoming editors should schedule at least two hours of meetings with outgoing editors. A summary of these individual meetings must be sent to the professor, copying the editor you met with and your EIC and EE. The summary must include, at a minimum: the date and time of the meeting, topics discussed, and lessons learned.</p> <p>Editors should also specifically discuss the following:</p> <p>EIC: The publication timetable from article selection to distribution and the role of each editor, full member, and candidate member; symposium and speaker events; budget; website; and outreach.</p> <p>EE: The publication timetable, journal polices participation and discipline, and the role of each editor, full member, and candidate member.</p> <p>Articles: Article solicitation and selection, editing responsibilities, meeting the publication timeline, dealing with the publisher, author requests, and making the final edits.</p> <p>Notes: Mentoring and guiding candidate members, the write-on process and working with the candidate members to produce quality articles.</p> <p>Research: Editing responsibilities, article reconciliation, working with candidate members, and meeting the publication timeline.</p> <p>Managing: Balancing the budget, making SBA requests, obtaining reimbursements, collecting and depositing payments, working with alumni and customers, and publication documentation management.</p> <p>Symposium: Discuss the next symposium or speaker event topic, and stages in planning and executing the events.</p>	
Class 2 (2 hours)	Read: CRLJ Style Guide Read: CRLJ Handbook, Ch. II	Management and Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBA budget requests • Treasurer responsibilities • Subscription fulfillment • Website <p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source collecting • Candidate Member (CM) training • Spading & Reconciliation • Style Guide & Bluebook
Class 3 (2 hours)	Read: CRLJ Handbook, Ch. IV	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection • Preemption checks • Copyright/Licensing • Faculty relationships <p>Editing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication Schedule • Editing for consistency

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student vs. Faculty work
Class 4 (2 hours)	Read: CRLJ Handbook, Ch. III	<p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write-On process • Orientation • Giving feedback • Mentors • Student comment selection <p>Symposium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selecting a topic & location • Speakers & logistics <p>Discussion: Handbook Revisions</p>
Required Meeting 1 (2 hours)	<p>Incoming editors should schedule a one-hour meeting with outgoing editors to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss proposed Handbook revisions, • Transfer any relevant documents, • Answer final questions, and • Discuss the transition. <p>This should be a wrap up meeting where the incoming editor asks all last-minute questions of the out-going editor and reviews edits to the Handbook. A summary of these individual meetings, including the date and time, topics discussed, and feedback received on Handbook edits, must be sent to the professor within 48 hours of the meeting (copying the editor you met with and the EIC and EE).</p>	
Class 5 (2 hours, <i>plus</i> CRLJ Board Meeting)	Assignment: Updated Handbook (in track changes) circulated to the professor and Board of Editors via email not later than 24 hours before Class 5.	<p>Editor-in-Chief & Exec. Editor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitions • Working with other journals • Working with faculty • Advocating for CRLJ • Interacting with the publisher • Management & coordination • Collaboration & teamwork <p>Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty Advisors <i>Cont.</i> • Campus presence • Alumni, academia, Hill, federal government • Communication <p>Discussion: Goals for CRLJ.</p> <p>Board Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Updates (EIC, EE, ME) • Team Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research ○ Articles ○ Notes ○ Symposium • VOTE: Adoption of Handbook. • Other votes, as noticed.
Class 6 (2 hours)	All-Journal Joint Roundtable Discussion This networking-style meeting encourages all GMU Scalia Law journals and the Law Review to share ideas about building morale, succession planning, and leading a journal.	

ACADEMIC STANDARDS & COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity

All members of the law school community are expected to exhibit the highest levels of academic integrity. Cheating of any kind, including misrepresentation of work and taking credit for the work of others without authorization and credit is strictly prohibited. Academic dishonesty is a legal and moral offense against the community. See ANTONIN SCALIA LAW SCHOOL HONOR CODE.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability requiring accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact Disability Services at (703) 993-2474 or ods@gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through ODS and will not be applied retroactively.

Preferred Pronouns

All people have the right to be addressed by the name and personal pronouns that correspond to their gender identity, including non-binary pronouns. If you have not yet updated your pronouns on Patriot Web, please do so at the beginning of the semester. Preferred names and pronouns are fluid and may change during the semester—if you would like to be addressed differently, please let the professor know. To learn more, visit pronouns.org and the University’s Chosen Name and Pronouns Policy.

All students are expected to respect and use each other’s preferred name and pronouns.

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Additional George Mason University policies regarding Academic Standards, Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, FERPA, Use of GMU Email Addresses, and Title IX, are available here: <https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/24-Common-GMU-Syllabus-Policies.pdf>.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

If students have any questions or concerns regarding the class, CRLJ, or topics discussed during the semester, please reach out to Professor Lane Daymude at any time.

For other concerns, students are encouraged to reach out to Annamaria Niels, Associate Dean for Administration and Student Affairs, at aniels@gmu.edu. In addition, the University has many offices students can contact as well. For more information about these offices, click on the links below:

- [Compliance Diversity and Ethics](#)
- [Bias Incident Report](#)
- [Title IX](#)
- [Student Support and Advocacy Center](#)