



Student Note Submission Guidelines and Requirements
TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL

The TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL is produced for publication by a group of students of the University of Texas School of Law in association with the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. TELJ publishes lead articles, student notes, and recent developments three times annually to provide and maintain strong academic discourse in environmental law.

TELJ is currently accepting submissions for student notes for the upcoming Volume No. 45 to be published 2014-2015. This volume will consist of three issues, each containing two student notes. Student notes are works of student-authored legal scholarship discussing or analyzing a specific, unresolved issue or problem and proposing a solution.

TOPIC

TELJ publishes timely and important pieces addressing a broad range of environmental law topics. Often, environmental issues stretch into other intimately related fields such as natural resource law, property law, administrative procedure, constitutional law, policy, and economics. TELJ focuses on addressing legal questions that do not have readily available answers and seeks notes that focus on solving these discrete legal uncertainties. Published pieces address significant current environmental law issues and provide analysis that could be helpful to lawyers faced with those issues in practice.

DEADLINES

TELJ accepts student note submissions for publication on a rolling basis. Consequently, preference is given to earlier submissions. Student notes will be chosen for publication on the following dates:

- Issue 1: July 15th
- Issue 2: August 15th
- Issue 3: December 22nd

To be considered for an issue, we strongly advise submitting your note at least one month before the decision deadline for that issue. This will give the editorial board time to adequately review and assess the quality of the note and determine whether we would like to extend an offer to publish. If your note is chosen for publication, you will be informed by the decision date for that issue. Prior to final acceptance for publication, authors of selected notes are required to sign TELJ's standard licensing agreement. If your note is not initially selected, it may be considered for a later issue unless otherwise withdrawn from consideration.

If you are working on a paper that you would like to submit, but it will not be completed in time for our review for a particular issue, you can e-mail TELJ with an abstract or early draft and a summary of the remaining portion of the work with an expected completion date. TELJ is



willing to work with you depending on where you are in the writing process, interest in the piece, quality of the work provided, and the deadlines TELJ faces as a journal. An offer to publish may then be conditioned on timely completion of the note and a willingness to make certain edits at the discretion of the TELJ editorial board.

If you require an expedited review because you are seeking publication in or have an offer to publish from another publication, please indicate so in your submission e-mail and TELJ will work to give you a decision sooner, if possible.

HOW TO SUBMIT

E-mail your note or any inquiries regarding the submission process to teljsubmissions@gmail.com along with your contact information. An accompanying abstract or summary is preferred, but not required. The note itself should be attached to the e-mail in Word format (.doc or .docx). Please remove any identification from the Word document so that TELJ's Articles and Notes Editors may blindly and objectively review each note.

Upon submission, you will receive an e-mail acknowledging TELJ's receipt of your submission and, depending on when it is submitted, for which issue the note will be considered.

PAGE LIMITS

There are no specific page limits for student notes. Students often submit seminar papers written for academic credit without addition or subtraction. However, we greatly value both depth and concision. Accordingly, the ideal note provides enough detail to adequately discuss the topic without including excessive tangents that detract from the focus of the work.

CITATIONS

Citations must conform to the most recent edition of The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation and, where applicable, The Greenbook: Texas Rules of Form. TELJ also follows the guidelines set forth in the Texas Law Review Manual on Usage and Style. All citations should be provided in single-spaced footnotes. Endnotes and in-text citations are prohibited.

How are Student Notes evaluated during the selection process?

The TELJ editorial board evaluates student notes through a rigorous multi-step process. Each note will be assigned to one of TELJ's three Articles and Notes Editors for a blind initial review. The editor will evaluate the merits of the note using a rating system that examines the quality of the writing, the legal analysis, and the topic selected. Notes receiving a high enough rating from the initial review will then be submitted to the other two Articles and Notes Editors for secondary evaluation. Notes receiving a high enough average score will then be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief and Attorney Editor-in-Chief for final decision.



What does TELJ look for in a student note?

The best way to get an idea of what constitutes a good submission is to review student notes published in past TELJ issues, which can be accessed through Westlaw and Lexis. Often, a strong writing seminar paper will make a good student note submission.

In general, the following values are important for student notes:

1. *Practicality*: A student note should provide a concise answer to a legal question. Ideally, a practicing lawyer could use the note as a useful and accessible resource in everyday practice.
2. *Readability*: Student notes are not a medium for students to show off their ability to wield sophisticated legalese. One purpose of a student note is to provide a brief and accessible overview of a specific legal inquiry; therefore, the note should be significantly easier to read than many of the sources it cites. The writing style should be intelligent and sophisticated, but approachable and understandable.
3. *Definite Focus*: A strong student note focuses on a specific topic and provides informative commentary and analysis. Notes should not attempt to provide an overview of a broad area of the law. Instead, a student note should provide the reader with a clear analysis of a specific legal inquiry without exploring unnecessary tangents.
4. *Organization*: A student note should be helpful in answering a specific legal question. A reader should be able to pick up the note and easily find the answer to her legal inquiry. With this goal in mind, clear and accessible organization is essential for a strong student note.
5. *Focus on Substance*: Historical and developmental overviews should be kept to a minimum. Some developments in the law over time are of course essential to provide an adequate picture of the current state of the law, but the note should generally stay focused on the substantive aspects of the topic and avoid excessive digressions.
6. *Persuasive*: Student notes should be persuasive as well as informative. Claims should be supported by sufficient and well-cited sources. Likewise, a good note recognizes, addresses, and evaluates counterarguments or accepts them as potential weaknesses. Where the author seeks to provide suggestions or solutions, they should be reasonable to the reader and logically follow from the rest of the analysis.
7. *Citation*: Authors should strictly adhere to Bluebook and Greenbook citation rules. Citations allow readers to easily confirm or explore the legal arguments made in the note. As such, footnotes should be purposefully utilized to be a resource for the reader. This does not mean excessive use of string cites; rather, footnotes should be sufficiently thorough and explain through parentheticals their contribution to the note. Citation format and accuracy is essential for a useful note.



8. *Concision*: Keeping a note concise can be incredibly important in achieving the goals of the note. Concision will make the note easier to read, more persuasive, and more focused on the substance of the topic. However, where knowledge beyond basic legal knowledge is required, the note should be a source of that knowledge.
9. *Creativity*: Student notes should provide a fresh approach to the subject matter. While the author should approach a topic that has not already been thoroughly explored, the note should also approach the topic in a new and different way. A mere summary of the law is not appropriate for a student note.
10. *Consistency*: Student notes should be internally consistent and should establish and defend all premises with legal argument rather than relying on implicit assumptions. If a gap in scholarship exists, a good student note will address such a gap upfront so the reader is fully informed and may logically evaluate the conclusion established by the note.
11. *Relevance*: Student note topics that are rendered irrelevant due to preemption by recent court decisions, by legal development, or by exhaustive coverage in current legal scholarship will not be considered, as the purpose of a note is to inform legal practitioners of new issues that they may encounter.

EDITING PROCESS

TELJ aspires to keep editorial interventions to a minimum for selected notes, striving to preserve the author's content and style to the extent feasible. Each selected note will be assigned to one of TELJ's three Articles and Notes Editors for the duration of the editing process, the goal of which is to provide individualized attention, correspondence, and transparency throughout the editorial process up to the date of publication. While the goal of the editing process is to ensure tightly edited grammar, punctuation, and citation, students whose notes have been selected for publication in TELJ must be willing to communicate with the Articles and Notes Editor and be open to suggestions and feedback so that we may produce a high-quality publication together.