

**MAINE LAW REVIEW AND OCEAN & COASTAL LAW JOURNAL
2011 WRITING COMPETITION RULES**

I. INTRODUCTION

The following rules are intended to serve as procedural information only.

The cases that will be used for the 2011 Writing Competition, along with the sources for each case, will be available on Blackboard at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 2011. This will begin this year's competition. A Blackboard "course" will be created for the writing competition and all the rising 2Ls will have access to it. A link to Blackboard and these rules will be posted on the *Maine Law Review - Ocean & Coastal Law Journal* Writing Competition webpage (<http://mainelaw.maine.edu/academics/maine-law-review/writing-competition.html>). A hard copy of the cases and sources, along with these rules, will be available at the library circulation desk.

II. MATERIALS

There will be two cases that may be used for the competition. A case note based on either case may be submitted for consideration to the *Maine Law Review*, the *Ocean & Coastal Law Journal*, or both.

(i) Pick only one case. If by chance you or anyone with whom you have close personal ties has worked on one of the cases as part of a job, research project, or otherwise, we ask that you choose the other case.

(ii) Each case will be accompanied by its own "closed universe" compilation of sources. You are expected to write your case note using only the sources provided for your chosen case. Since all sources will be prepared for you, the use of electronic research databases (LexisNexis and Westlaw) should not be necessary. Nevertheless, students are advised to renew their Lexis and Westlaw subscriptions before the end of the academic year for use throughout the summer.

(iii) Case notes must conform to the *Bluebook* (19th ed.) form of citation, notwithstanding different court rules governing the writing of briefs or citations forms that appear in ALWD. Use the Law Review forms in the *Bluebook*, not the Practitioner's forms. The *Maine Uniform Citation* form for Maine cases decided after January 1, 1997, controls and trumps the *Bluebook* form for those cases, including short form citation. For those competitors who prefer not to purchase a copy of the *Bluebook* (strongly recommended, for the sake of convenience and for future reference), copies of the *Bluebook* will be made available at the circulation desk of the law library.

(iv) Please obtain your 2011 MLR-OCLJ Writing Competition number from Brenda Berry (bberry@usm.maine.edu, 780-4346).

III. RESTRICTIONS

(i) Use only your competition number to identify your submission. Write (or type) your competition number in the top right corner of every page. Any submission that reveals the author's name will be disqualified automatically.

(ii) Under no circumstances are you to discuss the writing competition case or your

case note with anyone else. This is strictly forbidden. Failure to conform to this requirement will result in automatic disqualification.

(iii) Some of the materials you are using may need to be used by others in this competition. Please be considerate and sign out and return materials according to law library policy. Try to use materials early and avoid the rush.

(iv) No plagiarism.

IV. LIBRARY ACCESS

(i) A listing of the law library's summer hours is available at <http://mainelaw.maine.edu/library/libhours.htm>. Note that these hours are subject to change. You may listen to an updated recording of library hours and changes by calling 780-4817. Note that the computer lab in the law library will be available only during operating hours.

(ii) The computer lab in 144 Luther Bonney Hall is scheduled to be open during certain summer hours. Note that these hours may be unreliable. Students may wish to call to confirm the opening hours prior to traveling to Luther Bonney Hall.

V. FORM

(i) Submit **four (4)** individually stapled copies of your completed case note to each journal for which you would like to be considered. Students who wish to be considered by both journals will therefore need to prepare **eight (8)** copies of their submission.

(ii) The case note submission may not exceed fifteen (15) pages total. Fifteen-page case notes are generally comprised of nine (9) pages of text and six (6) pages of endnotes. Shorter papers generally should follow this three-to-two text-to-note ratio.

(iii) The submission must be cited using endnotes, not footnotes.

(iv) Use twelve-point Times New Roman type, 8.5 x 11 inch paper, and one-inch margins throughout your paper. The twelve-point type requirement applies to text, block quotes, and all endnotes.

(v) Double-space all lines contained in your submission. The double-spacing requirement applies to text, block quotes, and all endnotes.

VI. QUESTIONS DURING THE COMPETITION

(i) Our intent is to make this competition as fair and as anonymous as possible. Questions from competitors during the competition will be accepted starting at 12:00 p.m. on July 25, 2011. Questions arising during the competition should be submitted via either http://mainelaw.maine.edu/academics/oclj/writeon_question.html or http://mainelaw.maine.edu/academics/maine-law-review/writeon_question.html. The appropriate editor will then post the question and the response in the Black Board Maine Law Journal Write-On Community. This particular procedure is designed to ensure anonymity for competitors.

(ii) The competition is intended to test your ability to write clearly and concisely, put forth an original legal argument, and use proper citation. Thus, no editor from either journal will entertain any substantive questions regarding the law or citation form during

the competition. Do not submit other types of questions unless you are sure that you cannot figure out the answer for yourself.

(iii) The *Bluebook* is well indexed and should have everything you need for proper typeface and citation formatting. For questions on post-January 1, 1997, Maine court decision citations, please refer to the *Maine Uniform Citations*, available online on the *Law Review* website at: <http://mainelaw.maine.edu/academics/pdf/UMC2010.pdf>.

VII. SUBMISSIONS

(i) Submissions are due by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 8, 2011. No requests for exceptions to this deadline will be entertained, and the deadline shall also apply to receipt of submissions sent via FedEx, UPS, the United States Postal Service, e-mail, or any other method. Please remember that the deadline is set at noon. All mailed entries should be addressed to Lexie Moras and sent directly to the University of Maine School of Law, 246 Deering Avenue, Portland, ME 04102.

(ii) There will be two appropriately labeled boxes in room 115 of the law school--one for *OCLJ* and one for *Law Review*. If you would like to be considered for *Law Review*, place four copies of your case note in the *Law Review* box. If you wish to be considered for *OCLJ*, place four copies of your case note in the *OCLJ* box. If you wish to be considered for both journals, you must have eight hard copies of your case note and place eight copies of your case note in each journal's box.

(iii) If you are not in the Portland area and would like to submit your case note via e-mail, your case note (Word format) should be sent to Lexie Moras at amoras@usm.maine.edu. In your e-mail, please indicate the journal(s) for which you would like to be considered. To ensure anonymity, Lexie will forward a copy of your case note to the appropriate journal(s). Please note that if you choose to submit your case note via e-mail, you are responsible for any problems with opening the file, for any formatting problems, and for any delays that cause your submission to arrive past the strict 12:00 p.m. deadline on Monday, August 8. For this reason, it may be advisable to attempt to forward your note to Lexie prior to the deadline, to allow time to work out any glitches that may arise. Last, please note that any case notes submitted via e-mail will be considered officially submitted only upon receipt of a confirmation e-mail from Lexie.

VIII. REVIEW

(i) The Editors-in-Chief of the *Maine Law Review* and the *Ocean & Coastal Law Journal* will notify winning authors by telephone by Monday, August 22, 2011. Offerees may take, if they wish, twenty-four hours to either accept or decline a journal's offer to join its staff for the upcoming year. A list of new *Maine Law Review* and *Ocean & Coastal Law Journal* "rising" staff will be posted thereafter. Please provide contact information, including a phone number, as to where and how you can be reached between Monday, August 15, and Friday, August 19, to Brenda Berry prior to submitting your piece. No correlation will be made between names and exam numbers until the case notes have been reviewed anonymously by each journal's Case Note & Comment Editors and decisions have been forwarded to the Editors-in-Chief.

(ii) Please note: Both the *Maine Law Review* and the *Ocean and Coastal Law Journal* will be holding mandatory orientation days on Wednesday, August 24, and Thursday, August 25. Please mark these dates on your calendars now.

For any pre-competition questions, students may contact the Editors-in-Chief via e-mail. However, any questions submitted during the competition must comply with the procedure outlined in Part VI.

Best of luck!

Maine Law Review

Editor-In-Chief: Robert Hayes: robert.hayes@maine.edu

Ocean & Coastal Law Journal

Editor-In-Chief: Shannon Carroll: shannon.carroll@maine.edu