CJLPA 2 Submission Guidelines

We are *The Cambridge Journal of Law, Politics, and Art* (*CJLPA*). We are the UK's largest and most ambitious student-run journal, and our writers are a mix of students and experts. Our first issue, *CJLPA* 1, was released online and in print in Summer 2021, and it ran to 460 pages. It featured bold, interdisciplinary writing from the most talented students and experts in our three fields, edited and designed to the highest standard. Its writing was truly varied, including creative writing as well as academic essays and journalistic pieces.

This is a guide for those who want to submit writing to *CJLPA* 2, which will be released online throughout 2022, and in print in the summer.

How to submit

We welcome submissions from students and experts anywhere in the world. For this issue we are keen to work with more international writers as well as those from Cambridge and elsewhere in the UK.

If you have a piece of writing you want to publish with us, then we would love to read it. Please send it to the General Editors at generaleditors@cjlpa.org whenever possible. If we accept your article, we will edit it and then return it to you for final approval before we publish it. If we reject your article, we can happily provide detailed feedback and suggestions for improvement on request.

For *CJLPA* 2, we will publish two–three articles each week on our website (cjlpa.org). In summer 2022 we will release a print edition with a collection of articles from throughout the year. We do not have a minimum word count, only a maximum of 10,000—though do be aware that long-form articles above 6,000 words are much more likely to be published online.

We hope you will submit your writing to us, and we look forward very much to reading this year's submissions.

What to write about

It is important to us that we keep a diverse range of topics and styles. We are open to *any article* that touches on law, politics, or art, broadly defined. We also love interdisciplinary articles that combine our three areas.

If you are looking for inspiration, we would be interested in seeing more of the following topics in *CJLPA* 2:

- Black-letter law, in any jurisdiction
- Economics and finance
- International relations, foreign policy, and defence policy
- The natural sciences
- Artificial intelligence
- Analytic philosophy
- Film
- Music
- Unpopular thinkers and positions, or those outside the academic mainstream

In addition to non-fiction prose, we would love to publish creative writing.

As an experiment, we would also like to publish some articles, on any topic, written entirely in indented bullet points or 'premise and conclusion' form.

Lastly, we intend to publish fewer interviews and interview write-ups in *CJLPA* 2. We would generally prefer original writing.

Style

The things we value above all else in our articles are clarity, concision, boldness, and truth. We like articles that take little for granted.

- We encourage using short sentences and putting as much as possible in main clauses. This makes clear to the reader exactly what you are saying, helping them learn from it as well as work out whether they agree or disagree.
- We encourage the use of bullet points, tables, and graphs, even for articles in disciplines which do not use them much. Writing lists in prose rather than bullet points often obscures things!
- We generally have no problem with colloquial writing. We would much prefer 'colloquial and clear' to 'formal and incomprehensible'!
- We advise against enforcing variety in your terms for its own sake. Repetition usually grounds the reader and compels the writer to use their concepts consistently.
- Avoid using words like 'naturally' or 'obviously', which sway the reader or at least patronise them.
- If a discovery, argument, or theory of a previous writer is important enough to make it into your article, then summarise it rather than just naming it. This helps the reader if they are unfamiliar with the work in question. It also lets the reader see if your understanding of the work matches theirs.
- Our editors will implement a consistent 'house style' for minor matters such as punctuation and italics.
- Use copious references!

Referencing

We believe that an article cannot have too many references. Ideally, every 'hard' fact should be referenced. In our view, an article on a subject that depends on hard facts—for example, something in history or the natural sciences—can justifiably have multiple footnotes per sentence, and multiple citations within each footnote. We also acknowledge that this is a higher standard of referencing than seen in most universities, most academic books, or even in most articles from *CJLPA* 1.

For our referencing system we use a lightly modified version of OSCOLA. If you are not familiar with OSCOLA, please do not spend time learning it for our sake. Our editors will format your references for you. However, we would appreciate it if your submissions were submitted in footnote form, with as much of the following information as you can find:

- Page number(s) of the section you are referencing or quoting
- Author(s), giving surname, full first name, and any middle initials
- Publication date (year only, unless published on a website or in a newspaper, in which case give the full date)
- URL and date accessed, if accessed online
- Title and editors of an edited volume
- Book publisher (location not needed)
- Journal or newspaper name

- Journal issue and volume number
- First page of the article within the journal issue

Images

We encourage you to provide images to accompany your article, and especially images that you discuss within your article. However, all images must either a) be covered by a Creative Commons licence or b) come with all relevant permissions. As with references, the more information you can give us about the images and their creators, the better.

The best resource for Creative Commons images is Wikimedia Commons. If your image is not covered by Creative Commons, you will need the permission of:

- the artist(s);
- any museum, gallery, or individual from which you obtain the image; and (if applicable)
- people depicted in the image

Err on the safe side when deciding which permissions to pursue. If you need to write to people for image permissions, then we advise leaving plenty of time for them to reply. Make sure you give them our name and web address (cjlpa.org). Our Copyright Consultant will review all images before publication, but please email them at copyright@cjlpa.org ahead of time if you have any queries.

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