More Might Be More, Too

In our last issue, Bob Berring celebrated the new policy of the Harvard Law Review and several other leading law journals favoring relatively short articles. On the other hand, the Fordham Law Review – quite the reputable law journal in its own right – has realized that by precommitting to a bias against good articles that happen to be long, Harvard et al. have created an opportunity for other journals to do a little picking of super-sized cherries. As the letter reproduced on the next page explains.


HLR Introduces GB

The Green Bag is inclined, at least for the moment, to defer to the extraordinarily sound judgment of the former editors of the Harvard Law Review on the merits of journals that specialize in short, readable legal scholarship:

"The Green Bag," edited by Mr. Horace W. Fuller, though styled "A Useless but Entertaining Magazine for Lawyers," is, in reality, both entertaining and useful. The opening number is especially attractive to those interested in the Harvard Law School. Louis D. Brandeis, Secretary of the Law School Association, contributes an excellent article on "The Harvard Law School," which is illustrated with portraits of Story, Greenleaf, Parker, Parsons, Washburn, and Langdell, and views of Dane and Austin Halls, and gives a full and clear account of the original growth, work, and purposes of the Law School. The number also contains a valuable article by Professor Ames on "Specific Performance of Contracts," which gives an historical review on the earliest cases on the subject.
Dear Professor:

As you may have heard, a group of law reviews, including Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, Harvard, Michigan, Stanford, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Yale, recently announced their intention to limit the length of articles. For example, Harvard Law Review will not publish articles longer than 70-75 law review pages "except in extraordinary circumstances."

The Fordham Law Review, the seventh most cited legal periodical in the country according to the Washington & Lee study of law journal citations, disagrees with this policy. We believe that quality is more important than quantity. Therefore, we will continue to focus only on merit in choosing what articles to accept. We seek to publish outstanding articles that will have a substantial impact on scholarly or public debate, without regard to a rigid page count.

When you submit your next piece, please submit it to the Fordham Law Review. Our articles, like those on The Second Amendment and the Future of Gun Regulation and The Ten Commandments on the Courthouse Lawn and Elsewhere, have repeatedly figured in public debates. Our recent symposia such as Fidelity in Constitutional Theory and Rawls and the Law have shaped legal scholarship. Outstanding scholars, including Bruce Ackerman, Ronald Dworkin, Richard Epstein, Randall Kennedy, Martha Minow, Kathleen Sullivan, and Cass Sunstein, have chosen to publish in the Fordham Law Review.

To submit an article to the Fordham Law Review, please email it to the Senior Articles Editors, at sae@fordham.edu. We offer you professional editing. Unlike many of our peers, we consistently publish on time and we realize that a student editor’s role should be to aid the scholar who wrote the piece, not to burden him or her needlessly.

Finally, if your research interests lie within a particular specialty, consider publishing in one of the five specialty journals at Fordham: Urban Law Journal; International Law Journal; Intellectual Property, Media & Entertainment Law Journal; Environmental Law Review; and Journal of Corporate and Financial Law. The Fordham Urban Law Journal and International Law Journal are both among the ten most cited specialized journals in the country.

Like you, we know that quality is more significant than quantity.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth F. Gallagher
Editor-in-Chief

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Ex Ante

In Mr. Brandeis’s article on the Harvard Law School, he reports on, among other things, the first-year curriculum:

Contracts. Professor Keener. Three hours a week. Langdell’s Cases on Contracts.

Property. Professor Gray. Two hours a week. Gray’s Cases on Property.

Torts. Mr. Schofield. Two hours a week. Ames’s Cases on Torts.


Criminal Law and Procedure. Mr. Chaplin. One hour a week. [No text book.]

Notes, 3 Harv. L. Rev. 84, 87 (1889); Louis D. Brandeis, The Harvard Law School, 1 Green Bag 10, 18 (1889).

Not-So-Sorry About That

Eugene Fidell has recommended in these pages that the federal government get a little more aggressive about its litigating position in a certain class of cases – those in which it owes its opponents an apology. Specifically, he prefers an apology in print, in the Federal Register. There are reasons to be pessimistic. Consider, for example, the response of prosecutors to the Supreme Court’s unanimous decision overturning the conviction of the Arthur Andersen accounting firm for obstruction of justice (a prosecution that amounted to a “death penalty” for the firm and in all likelihood played a role in the loss of roughly 28,000 jobs at Andersen): They are “disappointed” and “will carefully examine today’s decision and determine whether to retry the case."