

NATIONAL SECURITY LAW JOURNAL

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR MASON LAW STUDENTS
NOVEMBER 11, 2014



WELCOME!

November 11, 2014

We hope you consider applying to join the *National Security Law Journal* ("NSLJ"), one of the student-edited law journals at Mason. We print timely, insightful scholarship on pressing matters that further the dynamic field of national security law, including topics relating to foreign affairs, intelligence, civil liberties, and national defense.

We have prepared this packet to provide you with some information about our journal and the application process. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly at alexander.yesnik@nslj.org.

Warmly,

Alexander Yesnik

Editor-in-Chief



WHAT MAKES NSLJ UNIQUE

- Nationally recognized as one of the top three journals on national security law
- Small and selective group
 - Multiple student Members who are professionals/practitioners in the national security field
- A constantly evolving and dynamic area of law
 - Frequently in the headlines
 - Great opportunities to write student
 Comments or Notes
- Proximity to Washington, D.C. allows for interaction with big names in the field





Top: National security law in the headlines Bottom: NSLJ members attend the annual ABA conference on national security law



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT: OUR PUBLICATIONS

- Digital and print issue published twice annually
 - Digital version on our website, <u>www.nslj.org</u>
 - Print edition available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble
 (only law journal at Mason distributed through retail bookstores)
- Each issue typically features three Articles by law professors or practitioners, and two student Comments or Notes





WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT: OUR SYMPOSIA

We host dynamic events to complement our printed publication:

- Nov. 6, 2013: Drone Wars: Challenges and Solutions
- Nov. 12, 2013: Blinking Red: Crisis and Compromise in American Intelligence After 9/11
- March 26, 2014: Safe and Surveilled: Former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey on the NSA, Wiretapping, and PRISM
- Nov. 12, 2014: Company Man: Thirty Years of Controversy and Crisis in the CIA



Above: Our events are planned and managed entirely by the student Members of NSLJ









Top Center: Gen. Michael Hayden, former director of the NSA and CIA, speaks at an NSLJ event Bottom Right: NSLJ Members meet Michael Mukasey, former Attorney General of the United States



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT: CANDIDATE MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- General responsibilities throughout the year:
 - Complete research/spading assignments for the pieces we will publish (check footnotes and sources for accuracy and correct *Bluebook* format)
 - Assist with our symposia, the annual ABA conference on national security law, and other events
 - Attend meetings (~once a month), read our weekly e-mail updates, and complete other tasks
- Fall semester:
 - Write a Note or Comment on a topic related to national security law, either in the Scholarly Writing class or as an Independent Study
- Spring semester:
 - Interview for Editorial Board positions
 - Attend Law Journal Management classes and prepare for transition (if on the incoming Editorial Board)



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT: HOW WE'LL PREPARE YOU

- Introduction to spading, research, and preemption checks after we extend offers to new Candidate Members
- Customized webinars and topic ideas for your Comment or Note shared before the fall semester begins
- Orientation and welcome reception in late August to welcome you to NSLJ and provide you with more guidance
- Assigned Notes Editor to assist you in writing your Comment or Note throughout the fall semester







THE WRITE-ON PROCESS

- Write-on packet released in **May 2015**, after final exams are over
- Submissions due back to <u>writeon@nslj.org</u>
- Write-On Packet (Required):
 - Comment/Note (~8-10 pages, no outside research) 75%
 - Bluebook Exercise (~15-20 citations to be formatted) 25%
 - Contact Information Sheet
- Write-On Packet (Optional):
 - Statement of Interest (less than 250 words)
 - Resume

Either of these can help distinguish you as a potential Candidate Member and are taken into consideration when offers are extended.

- Tips for success:
 - Pay attention to the many administrative details in the write-on packet
 - Visit www.nslj.org/writeon/ to learn more



NSLJ PUBLISH-ON OPTION

- Another path to journal membership—only available to current 2Ls, 2Es, and 3Es
- Next opportunity is January 2015
- Requires submission of a piece of "publishable quality" related to national security law
 - Process is intended for upper class students to demonstrate they have mastered what our Candidate Members learn through their first year in Scholarly Writing
 - Allows an individual to join NSLJ as a full Member and compete for Editorial Board positions (if available)
 - Members who "publish on" will have the same responsibilities and opportunities as other full members
- Visit www.nslj.org/publishon/ to learn more



COMPARE & DECIDE

- When deciding which journal to join, think about the type of experience you want to have in law school
- Compare NSLJ to other journals at Mason and decide for yourself:
 - Flip through our Year in Review
 - Read our print edition—available at the Law Library, Amazon.com, and Barnes & Noble (search "National Security Law Journal")
 - Visit our website and social media sites:
 - Website: www.nslj.org
 - Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/NatlSecLJ</u>
 - YouTube: www.youtube.com/NatlSecLJ
 - Twitter: www.twitter.com/NatlSecLJ
 - View photos and videos from our events: www.nslj.org/events/
 - If you have any questions, please contact us at info@nslj.org