

Davis Journal of Legal Studies: Volume V

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Project Summary

Davis Journal of Legal Studies (DJLS) is an interdisciplinary, undergraduate legal journal founded in 2020 at UC Davis. DJLS was founded due to the recognized need of publication opportunities in researching topics in law and legal studies at an undergraduate level. It is an academic journal that gives students an opportunity to pursue legal studies beyond a lecture hall, while simultaneously providing experience in the publication, research, and editorial processes.

During fall quarter we open applications for editors and authors to submit applications. After recruiting new editors, during winter quarter we train all editors on style guidelines and proper editing techniques, before then beginning to choose which articles to ultimately publish. We then work tirelessly until the end of spring quarter, at which point our yearly publication is ready for printing, and we can then distribute free copies to all editors and authors.

After publishing we hold a publication party, where we invite editors and authors to meet each other and celebrate the hard work that everyone has contributed toward creating Volume V. At this year's publication party, we gave a farewell to our graduating editors. We also gave out two awards: the Claire Volkmann Award for Editorial Excellence was awarded to Avery Redula, and our new award for this year – the Distinguished Engagement Award – was awarded to Anika Konkati. Over the course of publishing Volume V, our editors dedicated 360 hours to editing a total of 250,000 words across our 20 editorial board meetings.

Impact

Our goals for DJLS: Volume V were large. We wanted the fifth anniversary of the Journal to mark the largest publication to date, which we were able to accomplish. After receiving the most amount of publication submissions and editor applications than any past year, we decided to publish thirteen articles from across three universities (UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara). This is more than twice the number of articles in Volume IV, and while this brought its own challenges during the editorial process, we are incredibly proud of the end product.

As the Editor-in-Chief for Volume V, my primary goal was to get back to our roots. Over the three years I have been part of DJLS, I noticed a clear drop in attendance/engagement both over the course of each year and year after year. Therefore, my first decision was to bring back weekly in-person editing meetings. Editing meetings had been online during the pandemic, but to increase engagement, these in-person meetings served to reinforce people's dedication to the Journal and ensure that our end-of-the-year publication met the high standards as years past. For editors who had classes or other conflicts during our regular weekly meetings, we also had a separate online editing group.

By having in-person meetings, we were also able to invite authors (who attended UC Davis) to our meetings, which allowed easier communication between the editors assigned to the author's pieces. This greatly streamlined our editing process by allowing editors and authors to collaborate more closely together, as opposed to continually sending emails back and forth.