

# SOUTHWESTERN

## LAW SCHOOL

### Los Angeles, CA

### Honors Programs Policies

Administrative policy approved July 22, 2022. Effective immediately.

Revision history: Formerly a part of the annually revised Student Handbook; established as a standalone policy August 2022; updated August 2023.

Related policies: Graduation Requirements Policy

Scheduled Review Date: July 2024 (Student Affairs Office; Honors Program Faculty Directors)

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### A. Law Review

The *Southwestern Law Review* is a student-edited journal that publishes scholarly articles and commentary by members of the legal community and students.

#### 1. Second-year program

Participation in the Law Review Program furnishes students with an opportunity to study specific areas of the law as well as the means for national publication of their scholarly articles. The honor of participating on Law Review is offered to students of excellent academic standing.

**Mandatory Write-On Competition** - Any student who wishes to be considered for a position on Law Review must participate in the annual writing competition that is conducted after the spring semester (traditional full-time and part-time students) and after SCALE I Period 4. Announcement of the write-on competition

is posted in advance. The write-on competition is limited to those students who have completed the first- or second-year day, first-year SCALE, second- or third-year evening, and second- or third-year PLEAS/Part-time day curriculum. Transfer students, by invitation of the Student Services Office, may also participate. Each write-on participant is required to write a short paper analyzing a legal problem. The participant is allowed a set number of days in which to complete and submit their paper.

**Membership Selection Criteria** - Law Review will extend an invitation to become a **candidate** for membership to those students who satisfactorily completed the write-on competition and are in the top ten percent of the first-year day, first-year SCALE, second-year evening, and second-year PLEAS/Part-time day classes as determined by the Office of the President and Dean.

The Law Review Executive Board, in consultation with the faculty advisor(s), may also select additional students who demonstrate exceptional writing and analytical skills through the Write-On Competition and who are in the top 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of their class, as calculated at the end of the spring semester.

Students are prohibited from participating on both Law Review and Law Journal at the same time. If a student is selected for participation on both Law Review and Law Journal, the student may participate in only one of them.

In addition to writing a publishable article, each candidate must complete production and proofreading assignments, which are necessary for the preparation and publication of the Law Review. Each candidate may also be assigned administrative duties. Failure to complete assignments may result in a "missed deadline." A candidate who receives a "missed deadline" will receive a written reprimand for a first offense and may be removed from Law Review by a vote of the Executive Board for a second "missed deadline." An appeal of removal may be made to the faculty advisor(s) based on abuse of discretion by the Executive Board.

Full membership on Law Review is secured by successful completion of the candidacy requirements during the academic year. In April, the Law Review Executive Board will determine which candidates will be entitled to full membership status. Recognition of Law Review membership will appear on the student's official transcript. Any candidate or member placed on academic probation after selection for the program will be excluded from the program.

A vote of 3/4 of a quorum (a quorum is defined as 2/3 of the Law Review Executive Board) to deny membership will prevent a candidate from becoming a Law Review member. No absentee votes will be allowed. A candidate who is denied membership may appeal the decision to the faculty advisor(s), who can affirm the decision of the Executive Board or require the Executive Board to reconsider. Upon reconsideration by the Executive Board, a 3/4 vote of the Executive Board to deny membership will affirm the prior Executive Board

determination and will prevent the candidate from becoming a Law Review member.

## **2. Board of Editors**

The Law Review Board of Editors consists of an Executive Board and other non-voting Board members. The Law Review Executive Board consists of 8 to 12 members as follows:

- a.** Editor-in-Chief, responsible for the selection of the Law Review's contents and overall quality of publications;
- b.** Managing Editor, responsible for the daily operations of the Law Review;
- c.** Lead Articles Editors (3 or 4), responsible for soliciting and editing lead (non-student) articles;
- d.** Notes and Comments Editors (3 or 4), responsible for supervising second-year staff members and editing student notes; and
- e.** Special Projects Editor, responsible for the research of topics, the review of production assignments, and the coordination of symposia.

Executive Board members are the only voting members of the Law Review. They may not accept outside employment during the academic year, participate in an externship for more than 3 units, or serve on Law Journal, Moot Court Honors Program, Negotiation Honors Program, or Trial Advocacy Honors Program without obtaining a positive recommendation from the Executive Board, and waivers from the faculty advisors and the Office of the President and Dean.

Additional, non-voting, general Board members may include:

- a.** Associate Editors, who are responsible for editorial work on staff members' notes and comments and for working closely with staff members throughout the stages of the development of notes and comments. They are supervised by the Managing Editor and the Notes and Comments Editors.
- b.** Special Projects Staff Members, who produce book reviews or year-in-review articles and work with the Editor-in-Chief and the Special Projects Editor on assigned projects.

Editors for the succeeding Board are selected by the outgoing Executive Board members. All Board members must be in their final year of law school in the year during which they serve. The selection is based on performance as a candidate and academic standing.

Selection of the members of the Board must be communicated by the out-going Board to the faculty advisor(s) and to the Dean with clearly articulated and objectively verifiable reasons as to the appropriateness of the choices, why each student was selected or not selected, and with an accompanying job description for each member's position. Each appointment is subject to veto or ratification of the faculty advisor(s) and also by the Dean. The selection is made during the summer for a one-year term and becomes effective on the date assigned by the out-going Board in consultation with the faculty advisors.

### 3. **Law review credit**

- a. Law Review candidates may obtain up to 3 units of academic credit for participation in Law Review. Credits will be granted in accordance with the following procedures:
  - i. Students participating in the second-year program in the fall semester enroll for 2 units of credit in the course titled "Law Review" and 1 unit of Law Review credit in the spring semester.
  - ii. Unit credits for the fall semester will be Credit/C/No Credit. Unit credits for the spring semester will be Credit No/Credit.
  - iii. Completion of the Law Review course with Credit during the fall semester will satisfy Southwestern's upper-division writing requirement. (*See Graduation Requirements Policy.*)
  - iv. To receive Credit for the fall semester, students must satisfactorily complete all staff assignments, attend regularly scheduled program meetings, satisfactorily complete all assignments for the Law Review course, and submit a suitable written product. Students who satisfactorily complete all staff assignments and attend program meetings but fail to complete course assignments or submit a suitable written product will receive a letter grade of C for the fall semester. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete staff assignments or attend program meetings **and** fail to complete course assignments or submit a suitable written product will receive No Credit for the fall semester.
  - v. The faculty member(s) teaching the Law Review course will determine whether students receive Credit, a letter grade of C, or No Credit in the fall semester. Before making that determination, the Law Review Board will advise the faculty member(s) in writing whether each student has satisfactorily completed staff assignments and attended program meetings. The determination of the faculty member(s) regarding the granting of Credit, a letter grade of C, or No Credit is final.

- vi. Students who satisfactorily complete all staff assignments and attend regularly scheduled program meetings will receive Credit for the spring semester. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete staff assignments or attend program meetings will receive No Credit for the spring semester.
  - vii. The faculty advisor(s) will determine whether students receive Credit or No Credit for the spring semester. Before making that determination, the Law Review Board will advise the faculty advisors(s) in writing whether each student has satisfactorily completed staff assignments and attended program meetings. The determination of the faculty advisor(s) regarding the granting of Credit or No Credit will be final.
  - viii. Candidates may add Law Review units only within the one-week period that governs the rest of the curriculum.
  - ix. Candidates may drop Law Review at any time up to the last day of the semester.
- b.** Third-year students may obtain additional units of credit for editorial work, staff supervision, and management, according to the following procedures:
- i. Executive Board members may receive 2 units of credit in each semester, for a total of 4 units at the end of the final year of law school.
  - ii. Associate Editors and Special Projects Staff may receive 1 unit of credit per semester, for a total of 2 units in the final year.
  - iii. No student may receive more than 7 units total credit for all participation in Law Review.
  - iv. The Executive Board may recommend to the faculty advisor(s) the granting of credit or no credit for each editor. The Board will regularly advise each editor and the faculty advisor(s) of the quality of work being performed by each editor.
  - v. If an editor performs unsatisfactory work, the Board may recommend a grade of no credit.
  - vi. In all cases, the determination of the faculty advisor(s) regarding the granting of credit or the denial of credit with a grade of no credit will be final.
- c.** All incompletes and withdrawals for Law Review units will be governed by the current academic regulations.

- d. If a student is accepted by Law Review and successfully completes the written assignments and staff work required for membership and chooses not to enroll for credit, the Law Review membership will be indicated on the academic transcript by a notation of "Law Review Staff" or "Law Review Editor" in the memoranda column.

## B. Law Journal

The *Southwestern Journal of International Law* (Law Journal) is a student-edited journal that publishes scholarly articles and commentary by law professors, Southwestern students, and members of the legal community. Participation on Law Journal allows students to develop their legal writing and research skills along with their substantive knowledge of topics covered by the journal. The Law Journal complements Southwestern's extensive course offerings and faculty expertise in international and comparative law.

### 1. Staff member program

Participation on Law Journal provides students with an opportunity to participate in the editorial process of an academic journal, study specific areas of the law, and publish their own scholarly articles in a national publication. The honor of participation on Law Journal is offered to students who have demonstrated exceptional research and writing capabilities.

**Mandatory Write-On Competition** - Any student who wishes to be considered for a position on Law Journal must participate in the annual writing competition that is conducted immediately following the spring semester and SCALE Period 4 final exams. An announcement of the write-on competition is posted each spring. The write-on competition is open to those students who have completed at least the first- or second-year day, first-year SCALE, second- or third-year evening, and second- or third-year PLEAS/Part-time day curriculum. Transfer students, by invitation of the Office of the Dean, may also participate. Each write-on participant must write a short paper analyzing a legal problem. The participant is allowed a set number of days in which to complete and submit their paper.

**Membership Selection Criteria** - Law Journal will extend an invitation to those students who (1) participated in the write-on competition, (2) are in good academic standing, and (3) demonstrate exceptional research and writing capabilities. Selection will be based on the write-on competition (50%) and academic performance (50%).

Students are prohibited from participating on both Law Review and Law Journal simultaneously. If a student is selected for participation on both Law Review and Law Journal, the student may participate in only one of them.

**Law Journal Course** - All students selected as Law Journal staff members are required to register for a 2-unit, Credit/C/No Credit course which is taught by one or more of the Law Journal's faculty advisor(s) during the fall semester. Enrollment is mandatory. Registration in the course is restricted to students who have been selected for Law Journal. Completing the Law Journal Course will satisfy Southwestern's upper division writing requirement. (See *Graduation Requirement Policy*.)

## 2. **Board of Editors**

The Law Journal Board of Editors consists of an Executive Board and other non-voting Board members. The Law Journal Executive Board consists of 8 to 12 members as follows:

- a.** Editor-in-Chief, responsible for the selection of the Journal's contents and overall quality of publications;
- b.** Managing Editor, responsible for the daily operations of the Law Journal;
- c.** Lead Articles Editors (3 or 4), responsible for soliciting and editing lead (non-student) articles;
- d.** Notes and Comments Editors (3 or 4), responsible for supervising second-year staff members and editing student notes; and
- e.** Research/Special Projects Editor, responsible for the research of topics, the review of production assignments, and the coordination of symposia.

Executive Board members are the only voting members of the Law Journal. They may not participate in an externship for more than 3 units, or serve on Law Review, Moot Court Honors Program, Negotiation Honors Program, or Trial Advocacy Honors Program without obtaining a positive recommendation from the Executive Board, and waivers from the faculty advisors and the Office of the President and Dean.

Additional, non-voting, general Board members may include Associate Editors who are responsible for performing tasks as assigned by the Board. These assignments may include, but are not limited to, soliciting articles, selecting submissions, and editing articles for Journal publication.

Each Executive Board is selected by the outgoing Executive Board members. All Board members must be in their final year of law school in the year during which they serve. The selection is based on the evaluation by the Board of the candidate's performance in the Journal course, a statement of interest, academic standing, and writing and editing skills.

Selection of the members of the Board must be communicated by the out-going

Board to the faculty advisor(s) and the Dean with clearly articulated and objectively verifiable reasons as to the appropriateness of the choices, why each student was selected or not selected, and with an accompanying job description for each member's position. Each appointment is subject to veto or ratification by the faculty advisor(s) and the Dean. The selection is made during the summer for a one-year term and becomes effective on the date assigned by the law school as graduation day.

### **3. Law journal credit**

- a.** Law Journal candidates obtain up to 3 units of academic credit for participation in the Law Journal staff member program. Credits will be granted in accordance with the following procedures:
  - i. Students participating in the staff member program in the fall semester must enroll in the 2-unit graded Law Journal Course and 1 unit of Law Journal credit in the spring semester.
  - ii. Unit credits for the fall semester will be Credit/C/No Credit. Credit units for the spring semester will be Credit/No Credit. Submission of a rewrite of the student's Note from the fall semester is a condition for receiving credit during the spring semester.
  - iii. Candidates may add Law Journal units only within the one-week period that governs the rest of the curriculum.
  - iv. In the fall semester, the granting of Credit, a letter grade of C, or No Credit will be determined by the faculty member teaching the Journal Course. In the spring semester, the faculty advisor(s) will grant Credit based upon the recommendation by the Executive Board that the student has satisfactorily completed all staff assignments.
  - v. Completing the Law Journal Course during the fall semester will satisfy Southwestern's upper division writing requirement. (See *Graduation Requirements Policy*.)
  - vi. To receive Credit for the fall semester, students must satisfactorily complete all staff assignments, attend regularly scheduled program meetings, satisfactorily complete all assignments for the Law Review course, and submit a suitable written product. Students who satisfactorily complete all staff assignments and attend program meetings but fail to complete course assignments or submit a suitable written product will receive a letter grade of C for the fall semester. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete staff assignments or attend program meetings and fail to complete course assignments or submit a suitable written product will receive No Credit for the fall semester.



- vii. In all cases, the determination of the faculty advisor(s) regarding the granting of Credit, a letter grade of C, or No Credit will be final.
  - viii. Executive Board members will receive 2 units of credit in each semester, for a total of 4 units of credit in the final year of law school.
  - ix. Associate Editors will receive 1 unit of credit in each semester, for a total of 2 units of credit in the final year of law school.
- b.** All incompletes and withdrawals for Law Journal units will be governed by the current academic regulations.
  - c.** If a student is accepted by Law Journal and successfully completes the Law Journal Course, the written assignments, and staff work required for membership, and chooses not to enroll for credit, the Law Journal membership will be indicated on the academic transcript by a notation of "Law Journal."

### **C. Moot Court Honors Program**

First-year students who wish to be considered for membership in one of Southwestern's three advocacy honors programs, the Moot Court Honors Program, the Negotiation Honors Program, or the Trial Advocacy Honors Program (TAHP), must (1) complete the requirements of the LAWS II course; (2) participate in one of the intramural competitions; and (3) interview with the honors program they wish to join. Each honors program may also impose its own additional requirements.

Entering first-year students have the opportunity to participate in one of three LAWS tracks for their first-year spring semester: (1) appellate advocacy; (2) negotiation; and (3) trial practice. The appellate advocacy track feeds into the Moot Court Honors Program Intramural Competition; the negotiation track feeds into the Negotiation Honors Program Intramural Competition; and the trial practice track feeds into the Trial Advocacy Honors Program Intramural Competition. Students may change from their LAWS track into a different intramural competition after the first mandatory round, subject to the rules set by the honors programs.

#### **1. Intramural competition**

The Moot Court Honors Program Intramural Competition is open to all first-year day, evening, first-year SCALE students and PLEAS/Part-time day students who are enrolled in the Appellate Advocacy LAWS track and have completed the requirements of the LAWS II course. Students enrolled in other LAWS tracks may compete under applicable rules governing intramural competitions. No academic credit is given for participation in the intramural competition.

## **2. Moot court honors program**

### **a. Membership generally**

Interschool competitors participate as brief writers, oralists, or swing writers (brief writers who argue at least one round at competition).

### **b. Membership: rising second years**

Moot Court members are selected by the Moot Court Board of Governors with the assistance and agreement of the faculty directors(s). Selections are based on their LAWS II final paper, their grades, their performance in the intramural competitions, an interview with the Moot Court Board of Governors, and interviews with the faculty director(s).

Students may interview for only one advocacy honors program. Any student, regardless of Track, who receives an A+ or A in their second-semester LAWS II class will also have the opportunity to interview for the Moot Court Honors Program as a brief writer without regard to their performance in the intramural competition.

A student may be eligible for membership in the Moot Court Honors Program as a rising 2L student only if they have a minimum 2.9 GPA and a minimum grade of B- in LAWS II. Transfer students who have been accepted into their law school's moot court program, by invitation of the Student Services Office, may also be eligible to apply to the Moot Court Honors Program. Any student placed on academic probation will be excluded from participating in the Moot Court Honors Program and will not receive academic credit during that probation period. If academic probation is cured, the prospective program member may become eligible and be able to interview if a position becomes available. Selections for the subsequent semesters are at the discretion of the faculty advisor(s). If a student is placed on academic probation during their last semester of law school, the student will not receive academic credit during the last semester and should discuss alternatives for academic credit and graduation requirements with the Student Services Office.

### **c. Membership: upper-division students**

The Program Directors, in their discretion and depending on the year, may conduct moot court tryouts for upper-division students who did not try out in their first year. If a tryout for upper-division students is held, upper-division students (second-year day, and second- and third-year evening and PLEAS/Part-time day students) who did not participate in the intramural competition may apply to be oralists providing they have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 at the end of the previous fall semester, a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA in LAWS I and II, and a minimum grade of B in LAWS II.

Second-year day, and second- and third-year evening and PLEAS/Part-time day students may apply to Moot Court as a writer only if they received an A or A+ in LAWS II. If a tryout is to be held, upper-division students will receive notice in the spring semester of the academic year, and the tryout will be held following the completion of the spring semester.

**d. *Interschool competitions***

Southwestern currently participates in several competitions throughout the United States, most of which occur during the spring semester. Moot Court Honors Program members are assigned to particular competitions by the Board of Governors with the assistance and approval of the faculty directors(s). Students register for academic credit in accordance with the policies set forth below.

At the end of each semester, the program directors determine whether academic credit is to be awarded.

When a student is placed on academic probation following the fall semester or SCALE Periods 5 and 6, they are generally not permitted to participate in competitions during the subsequent spring semester or SCALE Periods. However, if the co-directors determine that significant preparation has already begun, the Associate Dean for Student Services (in consultation with the co-directors) has the discretion to allow the student to compete if the student wishes to compete. If the team advances to the national competition, the Associate Dean for Student Services (in consultation with the co-directors) has the discretion to allow the student to compete.

**Students are not permitted to participate in any regional or national oral advocacy competitions (moot court, trial advocacy, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, client counseling, or any regional or national competition that assesses law students' advocacy skills) while attending Southwestern Law School unless (i) the student's participation is sponsored by one of Southwestern's Honors Programs; or (ii) the student's participation has been otherwise approved by one of the Directors of the Honors Programs and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Students who violate this provision are subject to discipline under Southwestern's Honor Code.**

**e. *Board of Governors***

The incoming Board of Governors is selected by the program directors with the assistance and consultation of the Board of Governors. Each appointment is subject to veto or ratification by the Dean. The selection is made at the end of the spring semester and is for a one-year term, becoming effective on the date assigned by the law school as graduation

day.

A member of the Moot Court Board of Governors may not hold an executive editorial position on Law Review or Law Journal, serve on the Trial Advocacy Honors Program or Negotiation Honors Program, accept outside full-time employment during the academic year or participate in an externship for more than 3 units without obtaining waivers from the faculty directors. In addition to any units awarded for participation in an interschool competition, Board members are eligible to receive 1 unit of academic credit for each semester they serve as a Governor. As with competitors, academic credit for Board of Governors participation must be approved by the program directors.

**f. Moot Court Fellows**

Returning non-board Moot Court Honors Program members are designated as Moot Court Fellows. In this capacity, a Moot Court Fellow assumes a leadership role in the Moot Court Honors Program, assisting with the Moot Court Appellate Advocacy course, brief-writing and oral advocacy preparation, the spring Intramural Competition, in addition to participating as a writer and/or oralist in a competition.

**3. Unit credit**

Moot Court Honors Program members in their first year of eligibility enroll for 1 unit of credit in the fall in the course entitled "Appellate Advocacy" and 2 units of credit in the spring, regardless of when they compete. Unit credit for the fall semester will be Credit/C/No Credit. Unit credit for the spring semester will be Credit/No Credit. To receive unit credit in the fall semester, students are required to complete the class and complete all other responsibilities outlined in the Moot Court Bylaws. To receive unit credit in the spring semester, students are required to compete in the interschool competition and complete all other responsibilities outlined in the Moot Court Bylaws.

- a.** Returning non-board Moot Court Honors Program members, called Moot Court Fellows, enroll for 3 units of credit: 1 unit of credit in the fall and 2 units of credit in the spring, regardless of when they compete. Unit credit will be Credit/No Credit. To receive unit credit, students are required to compete in the interschool competition and complete all other responsibilities outlined in the Moot Court Bylaws.
- b.** Students may add Moot Court units only during the add period that governs the rest of the curriculum. However, should an opening on a Moot Court team arise after the regular add period has passed, the student selected to fill that opening will be allowed to register for the allotted units as a second-year competitor, with approval of the faculty directors(s) and the Office of the Dean.

- c.** Students may drop Moot Court only during the regular drop period that governs the rest of the curriculum **and** only after having informed the Board of Governors of their intention to drop.
- d.** The Program Directors have the responsibility to notify any student who is not performing satisfactorily in the Honors Appellate Advocacy course. A student not performing satisfactorily may receive a C or No Credit in the course, and/or may be removed from the program. The Board of Governors has a duty to notify any student who is not performing satisfactorily within the Moot Court Honors Program. Responsibilities and procedures for disciplinary action including removal from the program are clearly laid out in the Moot Court By-laws. All disciplinary measures require the approval of the program directors.
- e.** If students are accepted as members of the Moot Court Honors Program and they successfully complete program requirements, their membership will be indicated on the academic transcript by the notation "Moot Court Honors Program" in the memoranda column. Membership on the Board of Governors will be indicated on the academic transcript by the notation "Moot Court Honors Program Board of Governors" in the memoranda column.
- f.** The number of Moot Court units which any student may take during the course of their academic career must not exceed 7.
- g.** In all cases, the determination of the program directors as to whether competitors and members of the Board of Governors should receive academic Credit, a letter grade of C, or No Credit will be final.

#### **D. Negotiation Honors Program**

First-year students who wish to be considered for membership in one of Southwestern's three advocacy honors programs, the Moot Court Honors Program, the Trial Advocacy Honors Program (TAHP), or the Negotiation Honors Program, must (1) complete the requirements of the LAWS II course; (2) participate in one of the intramural competitions and (3) interview with the honors program they wish to join. Each honors program may also impose its own additional requirements.

Entering first-year students have the opportunity to participate in one of three LAWS tracks for their first-year spring semester: (1) appellate advocacy; (2) trial practice; and (3) negotiation. The appellate advocacy track feeds into the Moot Court Intramural Competition; the trial practice track feeds into the Trial Advocacy Honors Program Intramural Competition; and the negotiation track feeds into the Negotiation Honors Program Intramural Competition. Students may change from their LAWS track into a different intramural competition after the first mandatory round subject to the rules set

by the honors programs.

## **1. Intramural competition**

The Negotiation Honors Program Intramural Competition is open to all first-year day, evening and PLEAS/Part-time day students who are enrolled in the Negotiation LAWS track and have completed the requirements of the LAWS II course. Students enrolled in other LAWS tracks may compete under applicable rules governing intramural competitions. The Negotiation Honors Program Intramural Competition is also open to first-year SCALE students who have completed the requirements of LAWS II. No academic credit is given for participation in the intramural competition.

### **a. Membership**

Interschool competitors are selected by the faculty advisor(s) with the assistance of the Board of Governors. Selections are based on performance in the intramural competitions, the completion and quality of a written negotiation analysis, the student's grade point average, an interview with the faculty advisor(s), the student's ability to foster collaboration and teamwork in a positive and professional manner, and the availability and ability of the student to commit to the program.

Students may interview for only one advocacy honors program. Any student, regardless of Track, who receives an A+ or A in their second semester LAWS II class will also have the opportunity to interview for the Moot Court Honors Program as a brief writer without regard to their performance in the intramural competition.

A student may be eligible for membership in the Negotiation Honors Program during the second, third and/or fourth year only if they have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. Students are invited for one academic year and may be invited to continue for the next year. Transfer students may interview for the team when invited by the faculty advisor(s). Any student placed on academic probation will be excluded from participating in the Negotiation Honors Program and will not receive academic credit during the probation period. If academic probation is cured, the prospective program member may become eligible and be able to interview if a position becomes available. Selections for the subsequent semesters are at the discretion of the faculty advisor(s). If a student is placed on academic probation during their last semester of law school, the student will not receive academic credit during the last semester and should discuss alternatives for academic credit and graduation requirements with the Student Services Office.

Students selected for the program must enroll in the 2-unit Negotiation Honors Program course during the fall semester of their first year of

participation. Students must also commit to leaving specific lunch periods open from 12:30 p.m.-1:50 p.m. for negotiation events (for both fall and spring).

**b. Interschool competitions**

Southwestern currently participates in several competitions throughout the United States during the fall and spring semesters. Competitors are assigned to particular competitions by the faculty advisor(s). Competitors negotiate in teams but receive individual scores. Students register for academic credit in accordance with the policies set forth below in Section 2 (Unit Credit).

When a student is placed on academic probation following the fall semester or SCALE Periods 5 and 6, they are generally not permitted to participate in competitions during the subsequent spring semester or SCALE Periods. However, if the co-directors determine that significant preparation has already begun, the Associate Dean for Student Services (in consultation with the co-directors) has the discretion to allow the student to compete if the student wishes to compete. If the team advances to the national competition, the Associate Dean for Student Services (in consultation with the co-directors) has the discretion to allow the student to compete.

**Students are not permitted to participate in any regional or national oral advocacy competitions (moot court, trial advocacy, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, client counseling, or any regional or national competition that assesses law students' advocacy skills) while attending Southwestern Law School unless (i) the student's participation is sponsored by one of Southwestern's Honors Programs; or (ii) the student's participation has been otherwise approved by one of the Directors of the Honors Programs and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Students who violate this provision are subject to discipline under Southwestern's Honor Code.**

**c. Board of Governors**

The incoming Board of Governors is selected by the faculty advisor(s) with input from the outgoing Board. The selection is made during the spring semester and is for a one-year term, becoming effective on the date assigned by the law school as graduation day. Students may only serve on the Board during their final year of law school, absent special approval of the faculty advisor(s).

A member of the Negotiation Honors Program Board of Governors may not hold an executive editorial position on Law Review or Law Journal, serve on the Trial Advocacy Honors Program or Moot Court Honors

Program, accept outside employment during the academic year, or participate in an externship for more than 3 units without obtaining a positive recommendation from the faculty advisor(s). Board members are eligible to receive 2 units of academic credit for each semester they serve as a Governor. As with competitors, academic credit for Board of Governors participation must be approved by the faculty advisor(s).

## **2. Unit credit**

- a.** Entering members of the Negotiation Honors Program enroll for 2 units of credit in the fall semester and 1 unit of credit in the spring semester, regardless of the semester in which they compete.
- b.** Negotiation Honors Program Fellows enroll for 1 unit of credit in the fall semester and 2 units of credit in the spring semester, regardless of the semester in which they compete.
- c.** Returning Negotiation Honors Program Members enroll for 1 unit of credit in the fall semester and 1 unit of credit in the spring semester. Returning members do not compete in national competitions.
- d.** For all positions within the Negotiation Honors Program, unit credit for the fall semester will be Credit/C/No Credit. Unit Credit for the spring semester will be Credit/C/No Credit.
- e.** Students may add Negotiation Honors Program units only during the add period that governs the rest of the curriculum. However, should an opening on a Negotiation Honors Program team arise after the regular add period has passed, the student selected to fill that opening will be allowed to register for the allotted 3 units, with the approval of the faculty advisor(s).
- f.** Students may drop Negotiation Honors Program only during the regular drop period that governs the rest of the curriculum **and** only after having informed the Board of Governors and faculty advisor(s) of their intention to drop.
- g.** The number of Negotiation Honors Program units that any student may take during the course of their academic career must not exceed 7 units (absent special circumstances with faculty advisor approval).
- h.** If a student is accepted as a member of the Negotiation Honors Program and the student successfully completes program requirements, their membership will be indicated on the academic transcript by the notation "Negotiation Honors Program" in the memoranda column. Membership on the Board of Governors will be indicated on the academic transcript by the notation "Negotiation Honors Program Board of Governors" in the



memoranda column.

- i.* If a student fails to meet the expectations of the Negotiation Honors Program, the faculty advisor(s) have discretion to remove a student from the Program, suspend a student's membership in the Program, or change a student's position within the Program. For minor infractions of Program expectations, the faculty advisor(s) will notify any student who is not performing satisfactorily prior to removal or suspension. However, if a student's actions constitute a serious violation of expectations, as determined by the faculty director(s), no warning will be given prior to removal/suspension. In all cases, the determination of the faculty advisor(s) as to the student's withdrawal, suspension, change of position, as well as whether students should receive academic Credit, a letter grade of C, or No Credit will be final.

## **E. Trial Advocacy Honors Program**

First-year students who wish to be considered for membership in one of Southwestern's three advocacy honors programs, the Moot Court Honors Program, the Negotiation Honors Program, or the Trial Advocacy Honors Program (TAHP), must (1) complete the requirements of the LAWS II course; (2) participate in one of the intramural competitions; and (3) interview with the honors program they wish to join. Each honors program may also impose its own additional requirements.

Entering first-year students have the opportunity to participate in one of three LAWS tracks for their first-year spring semester: (1) appellate advocacy; (2) negotiation; and (3) trial practice. The appellate advocacy track feeds into the Moot Court Intramural Competition; the negotiation track feeds into the Negotiation Honors Program Intramural Competition; and the trial practice track feeds into the Trial Advocacy Honors Program Intramural Competition. Students may change from their LAWS track into a different intramural competition after the first mandatory round subject to the rules set by the honors programs.

### **1. Intramural competition**

The Trial Advocacy Honors Program Intramural Competition is open to all first-year day, evening, and PLEAS/Part-time day students who are enrolled in the Trial Practice LAWS track and have completed the requirements of the LAWS II course. Students enrolled in other LAWS tracks may compete under applicable rules governing intramural competitions. A separate tryout is held in the fall for first-year SCALE students. Participants compete for a position as a member. Transfer students, by invitation of the Office of the Dean of Students, may also participate in the fall tryouts. No academic credit is given for participation in the intramural competition.

#### ***a. Membership***

Members are selected by the Trial Advocacy Honors Program Board of Governors with the assistance and agreement of the faculty advisor(s). Selections are based on performance in intramural competitions and an interview with the Board of Governors.

Students may interview for only one advocacy honors program. Any student, regardless of Track, who receives an A+ or A in their second-semester LAWS II class will also have the opportunity to interview for the Moot Court Honors Program as a brief writer without regard to their performance in the intramural competition.

A student may be eligible for membership in the Trial Advocacy Honors Program during the second and third year only if they have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. Participating on a TAHP competition team as an advocate requires that a student has taken or is enrolled in Evidence within the same academic year of the competition. This requirement may be waived by the faculty advisor(s). Any student placed on academic probation after their selection to the program, but prior to their completing the TAHP Trial Advocacy course will be ineligible from participating in the program. Any student placed on academic probation after successfully completing the TAHP Trial Advocacy course will be excluded for the following semester. If academic probation is cured, the prospective member may become eligible and be able to participate in the program if a position becomes available. If a student is placed on academic probation during their last semester of law school, the student will not receive academic credit during the last semester and should discuss alternatives for academic credit and graduation requirements with the Student Services Office.

Program members participate as junior and senior advocates. Students selected for the program act as junior advocates during the first year of participation, and in the spring enroll in the introductory Trial Advocacy course for Trial Advocacy Honors Program students. During that year, participants receive 3 units for the course, but no additional Trial Advocacy Honors Program units. As part of the final exam for the introductory Trial Advocacy course, junior advocates must participate in the annual JEBS Tournament, which gives them the opportunity to showcase what they have learned during the year by conducting 2 to 3 full trials.

The following year, students who are continuing Trial Advocacy Honors Program members are invited to return to the program by the Board of Governors to participate as senior advocates. Senior advocates must have completed or be enrolled in Evidence and have completed or be currently enrolled in the Advanced Trial Advocacy course for Trial Advocacy Honors Program students in order to participate on a TAHP competition team. Students receive 2 units of credit for the course and 1 additional unit of credit during the semester of competition. A total of 3 units may be granted for participating in competitions.

**b. Interschool competitions**

Southwestern currently participates in several competitions throughout the United States during the fall and spring semesters. Advocates are assigned to particular competitions by the faculty advisor(s). Advocates participate as plaintiff or defense counsel and receive 1 unit of academic credit in the semester of their competition. Students register for academic credit in accordance with the policies set forth below. At the end of each semester, the Board of Governors compiles a list of competitors, which is given to the faculty advisor(s), who, thereafter, determines whether academic credit is to be awarded.

When a student is placed on academic probation following the fall semester or SCALE Periods 5 and 6, they are generally not permitted to participate in competitions during the subsequent spring semester or SCALE Periods. However, if the co-directors determine that significant preparation has already begun, the Associate Dean for Student Services (in consultation with the co-directors) has the discretion to allow the student to compete if the student wishes to compete. If the team advances to the national competition, the Associate Dean for Student Services (in consultation with the co-directors) has the discretion to allow the student to compete.

**Students are not permitted to participate in any regional or national oral advocacy competitions (moot court, trial advocacy, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, client counseling, or any regional or national competition that assesses law students' advocacy skills) while attending Southwestern Law School unless (i) the student's participation is sponsored by one of Southwestern's Honors Programs; or (ii) the student's participation has been otherwise approved by one of the Directors of the Honors Programs and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Students who violate this provision are subject to discipline under Southwestern's Honor Code.**

**c. Board of Governors**

The incoming Board of Governors is selected by the outgoing Board. All Board members must have successfully participated as junior advocates. The selection is based on performance as a participant in the Trial Advocacy Honors Program, a statement of interest, and academic standing. The name of each student selected and not selected is presented to the faculty advisor(s) and the Dean with a written statement that includes a description of the responsibilities of the office and a statement of objectively verifiable reasons as to the appropriateness of the choice. Each appointment is subject to veto or ratification by the faculty advisor(s) and the Dean. The selection is made at the end of the spring semester and is

for a one-year term, becoming effective on the date assigned by the law school as graduation day.

A member of the Trial Advocacy Honors Program Board of Governors may not hold an executive editorial position on Law Review or Law Journal, serve on Moot Court Honors Program or Negotiation Honors Program, or participate in an externship for more than 3 units without obtaining a positive recommendation from the Board of Governors, and waivers from the faculty advisor(s) and the Office of the Dean. A full-time student who is a Board member may not work without the consent of the entire Board. An evening or PLEAS/Part-time day student may work a maximum of 20 hours per week. Members of the Board receive 1 unit of academic credit for each semester they serve on the Board.

## **2. Unit credit**

- a.** Trial Advocacy Honors Program is graded on a Credit/No Credit basis.
- b.** Students may add Trial Advocacy Honors Program units only during the add period that governs the rest of the curriculum, unless a late add is approved by the Associate Dean for Student Services.
- c.** Students may drop Trial Advocacy Honors Program only during the regular drop period that governs the rest of the curriculum **and** only after having informed the Board of Governors and faculty advisors of their intention to drop.
- d.** The Board of Governors has a duty to notify any student who is not performing satisfactorily. If, after warning(s), the student's performance is not satisfactory, the Board may vote to remove the student from the Trial Advocacy Honors Program. Such removal requires the approval of the faculty advisor(s).
- e.** If a student is accepted as a member of the Trial Advocacy Honors Program and they successfully complete program requirements, their membership will be indicated on the academic transcript by the notation "Trial Advocacy Honors Program" in the memoranda column. Membership on the Board of Governors will be indicated on the academic transcript by the notation "Trial Advocacy Honors Program Board of Governors" in the memoranda column.
- f.** In all cases, the determination of the faculty advisor(s) about whether senior advocates and members of the Board of Governors should receive academic credit will be final.