

Ranking Law Reviews by Author Prominence—Ten Years Later*

Robert M. Jarvis** and Phyllis Coleman***

In an update to their 1997 survey, Professors Jarvis and Coleman again rank student-edited law reviews based on the prominence of their lead article authors. This time, Yale was found to have the greatest drawing power, followed by Harvard and Columbia.

¶1 Ten years ago, we published a study that ranked law reviews on the basis of the prominence of their lead article authors.¹ Because our work has been positively received,² and recognizing that the passage of time has dated the results, we present herein a new set of rankings.

¶2 As before, we limited ourselves to a five-year period (1991–95 in the original study, 2001–05 in this study). Additionally, law reviews once again had to meet certain criteria to be included. Specifically, they (1) had to be edited by students (as opposed to faculty) of a J.D.-granting law school that was accredited by the American Bar Association; (2) had to be at least five years old by the cut-off date; (3) had to have a general, as opposed to a specific, focus; (4) could not consist solely of special, survey, or symposia issues; (5) could not publish only

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1. Robert M. Jarvis & Phyllis G. Coleman, *Ranking Law Reviews: An Empirical Analysis Based on Author Prominence*, 39 ARIZ. L. REV. 15 (1997).
2. In addition to being written up in both the general and legal press, see, e.g., Dennis Kelly, *Columbia's Law Review Picked as Genre's Best*, USA TODAY, Dec. 4, 1996, at 6D, and Arthur S. Hayes, *Yale is No. 9?* NAT'L L.J., Jan. 13, 1997, at A16, another pair of researchers has applied our methodology to specialized law reviews. See Tracey E. George & Chris Guthrie, *An Empirical Evaluation of Specialized Law Reviews*, 26 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 813 (1999). We are not unmindful, however, that some observers have criticized our approach. See, e.g., Ronen Perry, *The Relative Value of American Law Reviews: A Critical Appraisal of Ranking Methods*, 11 VA. J.L. & TECH. 1, 41–52 (2006). With respect, we find their objections stem from either a misunderstanding or a mischaracterization of our methodology and, in any event, ignore what was, and continues to be, our primary goal: to determine where high-status authors prefer to have their works appear. Cf. Dennis J. Callahan & Neal Devins, *Law Review Article Placement: Benefit or Beauty Prize?* 56 J. LEGAL EDUC. 374, 375 n.5 (2006) (noting that “authors jockey for placement in higher-ranked reviews” for a variety of reasons, including “the belief that relative placement marks an article’s quality, fortifies one’s prestige, and improves prospects for career advancement[.]”).

student-authored works; and, (6) had to be printed in English.³ Likewise, we again included only unsolicited articles to ensure that a true picture of each law review's drawing power emerged.

¶3 In keeping with our prior practice, table 1 is the "Contributor Scale" that assigns points to different types of authors based on their prestige.⁴ Table 2 lists our findings, once again labeled "Results."⁵ At the suggestion of various readers, we have added a third table that presents the results in alphabetical order by law review name. Lastly, in tables 1 and 2, each law review's 1997 rank appears in the parenthetical after its name (law reviews not ranked in the original study are indicated by "NR").

¶4 In closing, we repeat the caveat that concluded our first study: while our system is not completely objective, its subjectivity is tempered by the fact that the results are based on the credentials of 7574 authors.

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3. As a result, twenty-four law schools are not included in our results: Appalachian School of Law, Ave Marie School of Law, Chapman University, Charleston School of Law, Creighton University, Faulkner University, Florida A & M University, Florida International University, Franklin Pierce Law Center, Golden Gate University, Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago-Kent), Inter American University of Puerto Rico, John Marshall Law School (Atlanta), Lewis & Clark College, Liberty University, Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles), Northeastern University, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Stetson University, University of La Verne, University of Puerto Rico, University of St. Thomas, University of the District of Columbia, and Widener University (Wilmington).
 4. Although the table remains the same, readers will find a slight difference in nomenclature due to the fact that *U.S. News & World Report* has changed the names of its tiers. For a discussion of how points were assigned to particular categories, see Jarvis & Coleman, *supra* note 1, at 16 n.7.
 5. As explained in the earlier article, the score for each law review is calculated by adding up the points assigned to each author of an eligible lead article published in the applicable time period and then dividing by the total number of authors. "[F]or example, if a law review published five lead articles each year during the five years of our study, and each article was co-authored, the law review would have a total of fifty authors (5 x 5 x 2=50). If half the authors were attorneys who fit our 'general lawyer' category (worth 175 points), and half were jurists who fit our 'state trial court judge' category (worth 350 points), the law review's final score would be 262.50 ((175 x 25) + (350 x 25) / 50)." *Id.* at 16 n.9.

Table 1
Contributor Scale

Category of Contributor	Points
1. U.S. President	1,000.00
2. Leader—Major Foreign Nation	975.00
3. U.S. Supreme Court Justice	950.00
4. Major Celebrity	925.00
5. U.S. Vice President	900.00
6. U.S. Cabinet Secretary	875.00
7. U.S. Senator	850.00
8. Lawyer Celebrity	825.00
9. Leader—Minor Foreign Nation	800.00
10. Minor Celebrity	775.00
11. State Governor	750.00
12. U.S. Circuit Judge	725.00
13. U.S. District Judge	700.00
14. U.S. Representative	675.00
15. State Supreme Court Justice	650.00
16. Law Professor—Top 25 School (per <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>)	625.00
17. CEO—Fortune 500 Company	600.00
18. U.S. Government Official (ambassador, agency head, or equivalent)	575.00
19. Foreign Nation Supreme Court Justice	550.00
20. Partner—National Law Journal Top 250 Firm or General Counsel— Fortune 500 Company	525.00
21. U.S. Bankruptcy, Immigration, or Magistrate Judge (or equivalent)	500.00
22. Law Professor—Top 50 School (per <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>)	475.00
23. Foreign Nation Appellate Court Judge	450.00
24. State Appellate Court Judge or State Legislator	425.00
25. Law Professor—Top 100 School (per <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>)	400.00
26. Foreign Nation Trial Court Judge	375.00
27. State Trial Court Judge	350.00

Category of Contributor	Points
28. Foreign Nation Government Official (agency head or equivalent)	325.00
29. State Government Official (agency head or equivalent)	300.00
30. Law Professor—Third Tier School (per <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>)	275.00
31. Local Government Official (mayor or equivalent)	250.00
32. Law Professor—Fourth Tier School (per <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>)	225.00
33. Non-Law School University Professor	200.00
34. Lawyer (not in any other category)	175.00
35. Non-Lawyer Professional (accountant, doctor, engineer, scientist, or equivalent)	150.00
36. Community College Professor	125.00
37. Ph.D. Student	100.00
38. J.D. Student	75.00
39. Paralegal	50.00
40. All Others	25.00

Table 2*Results by Rank*

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
1	Yale Law Journal (9)	553.23
2	Harvard Law Review (2)	551.85
3	Columbia Law Review (1)	543.15
4	Virginia Law Review (4)	534.92
5	Stanford Law Review (11)	524.24
6	University of Chicago Law Review (8)	512.92
7	Michigan Law Review (6)	506.60
8	New York University Law Review (3)	499.71
9	Texas Law Review (14)	484.00
10	University of Pennsylvania Law Review (12)	483.77
11	California Law Review (7)	475.29
12	Georgetown Law Journal (10)	472.67

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
13	Duke Law Journal (13)	472.50
14	Vanderbilt Law Review (20)	471.43
15	University of Illinois Law Review (15)	469.15
16	George Washington Law Review (17)	465.97
17	Cornell Law Review (16)	462.04
18	Emory Law Journal (21)	461.79
19	UCLA Law Review (5)	448.94
20	Northwestern University Law Review (18)	448.00
21	Boston College Law Review (27)	444.23
22	William and Mary Law Review (23)	428.45
23	Wake Forest Law Review (66)	419.32
24	Southern California Law Review (19)	418.24
25	Iowa Law Review (28)	417.29
26	Hastings Law Journal (37)	408.44
27	Hofstra Law Review (53)	407.50
	University of Colorado Law Review (65)	407.50
29	North Carolina Law Review (29)	399.24
30	Washington and Lee Law Review (40)	394.30
31	Minnesota Law Review (22)	393.10
32	Notre Dame Law Review (31)	392.44
33	Georgia Law Review (33)	391.49
34	Ohio State Law Journal (42)	383.62
35	Washington University Law Quarterly (24)	381.97
36	Alabama Law Review (99)	379.50
37	Boston University Law Review (26)	379.48
38	U.C. Davis Law Review (61)	377.73
39	Brigham Young University Law Review (25)	372.73
40	Villanova Law Review (62)	370.97
41	Tulane Law Review (45)	368.85
42	University of Richmond Law Review (115)	365.52

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
43	Fordham Law Review (48)	365.09
44	Indiana Law Journal (35)	358.16
45	Mississippi Law Journal (151)	349.31
46	Florida State University Law Review (114)	346.25
47	Arizona Law Review (34)	345.31
	Florida Law Review (43)	345.31
49	Case Western Reserve Law Review (46)	342.11
50	Houston Law Review (44)	337.50
51	Oregon Law Review (74)	336.57
52	Cardozo Law Review (69)	334.52
53	SMU Law Review (67)	331.73
54	South Carolina Law Review (76)	330.32
55	Buffalo Law Review (47)	330.23
56	Brooklyn Law Review (59)	327.50
57	Maryland Law Review (55)	323.91
58	Rutgers Law Review (50)	322.64
59	University of Cincinnati Law Review (52)	322.18
60	Temple Law Review (49)	322.00
61	University of Kansas Law Review (51)	319.44
62	Wisconsin Law Review (30)	317.86
63	Indiana Law Review (64)	317.42
64	Tennessee Law Review (41)	312.26
65	Arizona State Law Journal (72)	308.33
66	Rutgers Law Journal (73)	303.80
67	Washington Law Review (38)	302.17
68	Louisiana Law Review (100)	301.53
69	University of Pittsburgh Law Review (70)	300.41
70	Connecticut Law Review (56)	298.63
71	Utah Law Review (32)	298.51
72	Nebraska Law Review (91)	297.56

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
73	Arkansas Law Review (90)	297.06
74	San Diego Law Review (39)	294.40
75	Syracuse Law Review (87)	293.06
76	Washburn Law Journal (153)	287.50
77	Kentucky Law Journal (63)	285.85
78	DePaul Law Review (83)	285.29
79	Missouri Law Review (68)	284.65
80	George Mason Law Review (NR)	283.52
81	Loyola University Chicago Law Journal (140)	283.33
82	American Law Review (75)	272.83
83	Drake Law Review (123)	271.88
84	St. John's Law Review (107)	271.02
85	Akron Law Review (141)	264.19
86	Catholic University Law Review (57)	263.94
87	Santa Clara Law Review (126)	261.57
88	University of Miami Law Review (36)	261.49
89	New Mexico Law Review (119)	259.38
90	Baylor Law Review (134)	259.03
91	Nevada Law Journal (NR)	255.83
92	Albany Law Review (111)	254.76
93	Seton Hall Law Review (84)	253.64
94	Montana Law Review (79)	250.00
95	Tulsa Law Review (112)	245.83
96	Ohio Northern University Law Review (131)	245.16
97	Idaho Law Review (155)	242.50
98	Marquette Law Review (116)	241.25
99	Roger Williams University Law Review (NR)	240.38
100	Penn State Law Review (138)	239.22
101	Vermont Law Review (143)	238.79
102	Oklahoma Law Review (89)	237.84

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
103	University of Hawai'i Law Review (124)	237.50
104	Brandeis Law Journal (NR)	236.11
105	Wayne Law Review (71)	235.00
106	Capital Law Review (136)	231.40
107	South Texas Law Review (132)	230.56
108	Oklahoma City University Law Review (104)	227.98
109	Barry Law Review (NR)	227.50
110	Howard Law Journal (105)	225.00
111	Pepperdine Law Review (108)	223.68
112	UMKC Law Review (121)	222.87
113	Loyola Law Review (60)	222.09
114	New York Law School Law Review (85)	221.43
115	Touro Law Review (110)	221.30
116	Mercer Law Review (NR)	220.83
117	Seattle University Law Review (81)	220.76
118	Michigan State Law Review (158)	220.18
119	Denver University Law Review (77)	220.14
120	Florida Coastal Law Review (NR)	219.44
121	Whittier Law Review (127)	218.44
122	Georgia State University Law Review (54)	218.38
123	McGeorge Law Review (145)	217.97
124	University of Toledo Law Review (80)	217.86
125	University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law Review (132)	217.26
126	University of Detroit Mercy Law Review (102)	216.49
127	Saint Louis University Law Journal (82)	216.00
128	Quinnipiac Law Review (101)	214.02
129	Cumberland Law Review (157)	213.33
130	Suffolk University Law Review (147)	212.50
131	Valparaiso University Law Review (117)	212.04
132	University of Baltimore Law Review (149)	211.72

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
133	Duquesne Law Review (78)	211.41
134	West Virginia Law Review (94)	210.71
135	Pace Law Review (103)	210.00
136	University of Dayton Law Review (118)	209.38
137	Hamline Law Review (106)	206.41
138	Willamette Law Review (97)	206.40
139	Northern Kentucky Law Review (159)	206.25
140	University of San Francisco Law Review (120)	203.24
141	Southern Illinois University Law Journal (113)	202.44
142	South Dakota Law Review (144)	201.50
143	Maine Law Review (93)	200.96
144	University of Memphis Law Review (128)	200.53
145	Regent University Law Review (88)	198.96
146	New England Law Review (125)	197.50
147	North Dakota Law Review (154)	197.28
148	Thomas Jefferson Law Review (NR)	196.59
149	St. Mary's Law Journal (122)	196.34
150	Gonzaga Law Review (152)	195.74
151	Nova Law Review (130)	195.65
152	Cleveland State Law Review (139)	194.59
153	Wyoming Law Review (NR)	191.67
154	North Carolina Central Law Journal (148)	191.07
155	Mississippi College Law Review (160)	190.79
156	New York City Law Review (NR)	190.38
157	William Mitchell Law Review (137)	189.13
158	California Western Law Review (161)	188.46
159	Widener Law Journal (NR)	187.50
160	John Marshall Law Review (98)	187.24
161	St. Thomas Law Review (150)	185.94
162	Texas Wesleyan Law Review (NR)	185.00

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
163	Southern University Law Review (146)	182.55
164	Campbell Law Review (156)	181.25
165	Northern Illinois University Law Review (142)	179.29
166	Thomas M. Cooley Law Review (129)	177.27
167	Texas Tech Law Review (95)	175.96
168	Thurgood Marshall Law Review (135)	168.75
	Western New England Law Review (109)	168.75
170	Southwestern University Law Review (92)	159.52
171	Western State University Law Review (NR)	140.52

Table 3*Results by Name of Law Review*

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
85	Akron Law Review (141)	264.19
36	Alabama Law Review (99)	379.50
92	Albany Law Review (111)	254.76
82	American Law Review (75)	272.83
47	Arizona Law Review (34)	345.31
65	Arizona State Law Journal (72)	308.33
73	Arkansas Law Review (90)	297.06
109	Barry Law Review (NR)	227.50
90	Baylor Law Review (134)	259.03
21	Boston College Law Review (27)	444.23
37	Boston University Law Review (26)	379.48
104	Brandeis Law Journal (NR)	236.11
39	Brigham Young University Law Review (25)	372.73
56	Brooklyn Law Review (59)	327.50
55	Buffalo Law Review (47)	330.23
11	California Law Review (7)	475.29

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
158	California Western Law Review (161)	188.46
164	Campbell Law Review (156)	181.25
106	Capital Law Review (136)	231.40
52	Cardozo Law Review (69)	334.52
49	Case Western Reserve Law Review (46)	342.11
86	Catholic University Law Review (57)	263.94
152	Cleveland State Law Review (139)	194.59
3	Columbia Law Review (1)	543.15
70	Connecticut Law Review (56)	298.63
17	Cornell Law Review (16)	462.04
129	Cumberland Law Review (157)	213.33
119	Denver University Law Review (77)	220.14
78	DePaul Law Review (83)	285.29
83	Drake Law Review (123)	271.88
13	Duke Law Journal (13)	472.50
133	Duquesne Law Review (78)	211.41
18	Emory Law Journal (21)	461.79
120	Florida Coastal Law Review (NR)	219.44
47	Florida Law Review (43)	345.31
46	Florida State University Law Review (114)	346.25
43	Fordham Law Review (48)	365.09
80	George Mason Law Review (NR)	283.52
16	George Washington Law Review (17)	465.97
12	Georgetown Law Journal (10)	472.67
33	Georgia Law Review (33)	391.49
122	Georgia State University Law Review (54)	218.38
150	Gonzaga Law Review (152)	195.74
137	Hamline Law Review (106)	206.41
2	Harvard Law Review (2)	551.85
26	Hastings Law Journal (37)	408.44

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
27	Hofstra Law Review (53)	407.50
50	Houston Law Review (44)	337.50
110	Howard Law Journal (105)	225.00
97	Idaho Law Review (155)	242.50
44	Indiana Law Journal (35)	358.16
63	Indiana Law Review (64)	317.42
25	Iowa Law Review (28)	417.29
160	John Marshall Law Review (98)	187.24
77	Kentucky Law Journal (63)	285.85
68	Louisiana Law Review (100)	301.53
113	Loyola Law Review (60)	222.09
81	Loyola University Chicago Law Journal (140)	283.33
143	Maine Law Review (93)	200.96
98	Marquette Law Review (116)	241.25
57	Maryland Law Review (55)	323.91
123	McGeorge Law Review (145)	217.97
116	Mercer Law Review (NR)	220.83
7	Michigan Law Review (6)	506.60
118	Michigan State Law Review (158)	220.18
31	Minnesota Law Review (22)	393.10
155	Mississippi College Law Review (160)	190.79
45	Mississippi Law Journal (151)	349.31
79	Missouri Law Review (68)	284.65
94	Montana Law Review (79)	250.00
72	Nebraska Law Review (91)	297.56
91	Nevada Law Journal (NR)	255.83
146	New England Law Review (125)	197.50
89	New Mexico Law Review (119)	259.38
156	New York City Law Review (NR)	190.38
114	New York Law School Law Review (85)	221.43

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
8	New York University Law Review (3)	499.71
154	North Carolina Central Law Journal (148)	191.07
29	North Carolina Law Review (29)	399.24
147	North Dakota Law Review (154)	197.28
165	Northern Illinois University Law Review (142)	179.29
139	Northern Kentucky Law Review (159)	206.25
20	Northwestern University Law Review (18)	448.00
32	Notre Dame Law Review (31)	392.44
151	Nova Law Review (130)	195.65
96	Ohio Northern University Law Review (131)	245.16
34	Ohio State Law Journal (42)	383.62
108	Oklahoma City University Law Review (104)	227.98
102	Oklahoma Law Review (89)	237.84
51	Oregon Law Review (74)	336.57
135	Pace Law Review (103)	210.00
100	Penn State Law Review (138)	239.22
111	Pepperdine Law Review (108)	223.68
128	Quinnipiac Law Review (101)	214.02
145	Regent University Law Review (88)	198.96
99	Roger Williams University Law Review (NR)	240.38
66	Rutgers Law Journal (73)	303.80
58	Rutgers Law Review (50)	322.64
127	Saint Louis University Law Journal (82)	216.00
74	San Diego Law Review (39)	294.40
87	Santa Clara Law Review (126)	261.57
117	Seattle University Law Review (81)	220.76
93	Seton Hall Law Review (84)	253.64
53	SMU Law Review (67)	331.73
54	South Carolina Law Review (76)	330.32
142	South Dakota Law Review (144)	201.50

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
107	South Texas Law Review (132)	230.56
24	Southern California Law Review (19)	418.24
141	Southern Illinois University Law Journal (113)	202.44
163	Southern University Law Review (146)	182.55
170	Southwestern University Law Review (92)	159.52
84	St. John's Law Review (107)	271.02
149	St. Mary's Law Journal (122)	196.34
161	St. Thomas Law Review (150)	185.94
5	Stanford Law Review (11)	524.24
130	Suffolk University Law Review (147)	212.50
75	Syracuse Law Review (87)	293.06
60	Temple Law Review (49)	322.00
64	Tennessee Law Review (41)	312.26
9	Texas Law Review (14)	484.00
167	Texas Tech Law Review (95)	175.96
162	Texas Wesleyan Law Review (NR)	185.00
148	Thomas Jefferson Law Review (NR)	196.59
166	Thomas M. Cooley Law Review (129)	177.27
168	Thurgood Marshall Law Review (135)	168.75
115	Touro Law Review (110)	221.30
41	Tulane Law Review (45)	368.85
95	Tulsa Law Review (112)	245.83
38	U.C. Davis Law Review (61)	377.73
19	UCLA Law Review (5)	448.94
112	UMKC Law Review (121)	222.87
125	University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law Review (132)	217.26
132	University of Baltimore Law Review (149)	211.72
6	University of Chicago Law Review (8)	512.92
59	University of Cincinnati Law Review (52)	322.18
27	University of Colorado Law Review (65)	407.50

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
136	University of Dayton Law Review (118)	209.38
126	University of Detroit Mercy Law Review (102)	216.49
103	University of Hawai'i Law Review (124)	237.50
15	University of Illinois Law Review (15)	469.15
61	University of Kansas Law Review (51)	319.44
144	University of Memphis Law Review (128)	200.53
88	University of Miami Law Review (36)	261.49
10	University of Pennsylvania Law Review (12)	483.77
69	University of Pittsburgh Law Review (70)	300.41
42	University of Richmond Law Review (115)	365.52
140	University of San Francisco Law Review (120)	203.24
124	University of Toledo Law Review (80)	217.86
71	Utah Law Review (32)	298.51
131	Valparaiso University Law Review (117)	212.04
14	Vanderbilt Law Review (20)	471.43
101	Vermont Law Review (143)	238.79
40	Villanova Law Review (62)	370.97
4	Virginia Law Review (4)	534.92
23	Wake Forest Law Review (66)	419.32
76	Washburn Law Journal (153)	287.50
30	Washington and Lee Law Review (40)	394.30
67	Washington Law Review (38)	302.17
35	Washington University Law Quarterly (24)	381.97
105	Wayne Law Review (71)	235.00
134	West Virginia Law Review (94)	210.71
168	Western New England Law Review (109)	168.75
171	Western State University Law Review (NR)	140.52
121	Whittier Law Review (127)	218.44
159	Widener Law Journal (NR)	187.50
138	Willamette Law Review (97)	206.40

2007 Rank	Law Review (rank in 1997 study)	Score
22	William and Mary Law Review (23)	428.45
157	William Mitchell Law Review (137)	189.13
62	Wisconsin Law Review (30)	317.86
153	Wyoming Law Review (NR)	191.67
1	Yale Law Journal (9)	553.23