



SCHOOL OF LAW

Law Review

Call for Proposals

***Past is Prologue: Legal Narratives and the Law's
Potential for Justice and Injustice.***

Symposia will be held October 7, 2022
Proposals due on or before July 31, 2022

Each year, Mercer Law Review hosts an Annual Symposium, a two-day event bringing students, practitioners, and scholars together to analyze a relevant area of the law. Proceedings from the Symposium are published in the Lead Articles edition from of the Mercer Law Review.

This year, the Symposium will focus on legal narrative. In particular, conflicting legal narratives, which abound in the law. We see them in court briefs, judicial decisions, and media accounts. Indeed, legal disputes often embody conflicting narratives as advocates frame their client's stories for their desired outcome. Although law can be a tool for furthering justice, all too often it has been—indeed, all too often still is—a tool for creating and reinforcing the continuing marginalization of the marginalized. When courts decide cases, those opinions can confirm and document the prevailing narrative. But are those narratives the same as history? What do those stories tell us about who we are? What about those stories we omit? Those that tell us things we may not want to know about ourselves? Those of people whose stories have been ignored, glossed over, polished? When stories of law as an instrument of injustice are denied, left untold, or forgotten, they don't just disappear; rather, they operate at an unconscious level that is virtually impossible to confront. Telling, hearing, and understanding these stories allows for a more hopeful and just future—one in which new stories are possible.

Many existing movements within the legal academy and the larger legal profession are dedicated to the critical reexamination of prevailing narratives. For example, the Feminist Judgment Project employs a feminist lens to reexamine longstanding precedent in a variety of areas of the law. In fact, there are many lenses through which one might reexamine current and prior legal narratives, and such reexamination might concern a wide variety of doctrines.

Conference Structure and Registration

The conference will take place at Mercer University School of Law, in Macon, Georgia. We anticipate the conference will be held in-person. However, in the event of any further COVID surge, we are also preparing for a possible online component of the Symposium for those unable to travel as well as an entirely online program should public health concerns dictate.

The Law Review will host a dinner on the evening of Thursday, October 6. Speakers are invited to join us for dinner.

Presentation Formats

The conference will include a keynote address, multi-speaker panels, and selected individual presentations. Proposals may, but are not required to, include multiple speakers who would comprise a panel on a similar topic.

Submitting a Proposal

Please use the link below to submit your proposal. Your proposal should include a title (tentative is fine) and short summary (fewer than 80 words). It should also include an abstract (no more than 600 words) that more fully describes the subject of your presentation, article-in-progress, or both.

Complete the Proposal Form [by clicking this link](#).

If you'd rather submit your proposal via email, please send it to Jordan Stone (Lead Articles Editor) at jstone23@lawmail.mercer.edu. In addition to your proposal, please include: your contact information, your organization and position, and whether you're willing to participate as a panelist at the Symposium.

Deadline

The Law Review will consider proposals submitted by **July 31, 2022** and will review these proposals by **August 12, 2022**. Presenters are expected to publish an article on the topic of their presentations. Article drafts are due **September 16, 2022**.

Questions

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Mercer Law Review at:

- Jordan Stone – Lead Articles Editor
 - jstone23@lawmail.mercer.edu
- Travis Lynes – Editor-in-Chief
 - Tlynes23@lawmail.mercer.edu
- Professor Suzianne Painter-Thorne – Professor of Law
 - painter-thorne@law.mercer.edu
- Dean Pamela Wilkins – Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
 - wilkins_pa@law.mercer.edu