The California Lawn Review



The People's Publication

California Lawn Review is the preeminent horticultural publication at University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. The California Lawn Review publishes important legal scholarship on botany, landscaping, budtending, hydroponics, and mowing techniques. The California Lawn publishes articles reviewing the best and worst lawns around campus and greater Berkeley and hosts an annual symposium in mid-April.



In a world of small joys, tiny homes, and miniature plants, we bring you: Tiny Lawn™. She's small, but so lush.



The world is a lawn if you see it as one. After four hours in the car, this lawn was an oasis, though the ground wasn't as comfy as it could have been…



Ahh, Lake Merritt, could there be a finer lawn than yours? I never know what I will see walking around you. The old shirtless man dancing on the white leather seats of his drop top benz? Awkward first daters picnicking on its shores, filling the air with the steady hum of forced conversation? Perhaps you will notice the glimmer of an empty bottle of Patron bobbing gently on the waves. And if you look closely, you might even see a lime scooter or two hiding beneath the glassy, black surface of the Lake's tranquil waters. Ahhh yes, the mystery, the beauty, the randomness. The distance from law school, making the class you're on call for tomorrow seem so far away.



This lawn is a breeding ground for the Berkeley Law Bro Society. You thought you were cool in undergrad, bro? What if I told you that you could walk right across the street, never grow up, and make big bro bucks? That's right, you never have to confront your ego! The Bro Society provides groups of bros with which you can walk around like you own the place so you never forget that vulnerability is myth. Our strong network ensures a job in BroLaw. If you contact us, we will not respond—you know we can't communicate, bro! Lmaooo *You may also be interested in Fed Sock, a circle of jerks. Their meetings don't last long!



Stolen. Squatters didn't water the plants.

The Bluebook is a Scam

(And Not Just Because I Always Failed Citation Machine Exercises)

Student Note by: @earlwarrenbaddie69

There exists a good, free citation website for nearly every citation method out there. APA, MLA, Chicago, and even Turabian. But not the Bluebook. Many a student has spent an evening crying into the 365-page behemoth, lamenting the fact that the citations provided to us on Westlaw and Lexis are wrong. Somehow, no one seems to think it's worth it to throw a few grand at a nerd on Upwork to write for the whole thing and end this madness.

It's because the Bluebook is, and has always been, a money laundering scheme. And THEY don't want us to know about it.

The Bluebook was created smack in the middle of Prohibition. Now, I wasn't there, but the only possible explanation is that Harvard and Yale students decided to make an extra buck on the side right before they graduated law school and orchestrated the collapse of the American economy.

On the hunt for their side hustle, they made a book so thick and cumbersome that a flask of their finest toilet gin could fit inside. No one suspected a thing. When Prohibition ended, they realized that they had convinced the entirety of the legal world of the value of this "book" based solely on their credentials and might as well keep it going. They graciously let Columbia and Penn join in on the fun, and colluded to create more rules, more non-sensical abbreviations, and more ways to haze 1Ls.

Every five years, they release a new version, making just enough riveting changes to warrant everyone re-purchasing their book. Envt'l to Env't? Groundbreaking. No more dates on the federal code? Iconic. Just enough typos to have a reason to fix them five years later? Brilliant.

There were 42,000 new law students in the U.S. in fall 2021. At $45 a pop, that's a cool $1.89 million for the Bluebook each year. But it doesn't end there. There are over 400,000 law firms in the U.S. Even if only one in every two law firms buys a copy of the Bluebook every time a new edition is released, that's $8,400,000.

The money clearly isn't going back into the production of the book. While "the editors" of the Bluebook claim it is spiral bound because this allows it to "lie-flat," we all know that it's because spiral-bound is the cheapest option at Office Max. They never hired a graphic designer (or at least not a good one), because that white-font-blue-book combo is giving us absolutely NOTHING. There's not even a blank page on the inside cover to write your name on when you inevitably leave it in a classroom once a week. (I have, um, a friend who does that and it's been a bit of a challenge for him, apparently.)

Although the ownership of this blue baby borne from the depths of hell is "shared" between law reviews at these schools, there's only about 400 students in all the reviews combined. Something tells me that they're not shelling out $7500 bucks per student each year for embroidered Patagonias. So, dear reader, you might be wondering, where is this money going?

The truth is, we don't know. Maybe they're still making toilet gin. Maybe they've upgraded to bathtub gin. Maybe all that blue is hiding something very dark. What's important is that 21 editions later, they're still pulling the wool over all our eyes. We can cite, but now we need to see. Wake up Berkeley Law.

What is this?

(Wouldn't you like to know.)

California Lawn Review is a student-run variety publication at Berkeley Law that promotes levity, accessibility, and student voices in commentary on the law, legal education, and any other aspect of the law student experience. California Lawn Review considers submissions from all students in all forms, including open letters, satire, creative writing, artwork, and beyond.

Join the revolution:

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Interested in joining the People's Publication?
Accepting submissions, questions, and love letters:

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