



# UNDERGRADUATE LAW JOURNAL

*A Registered Student Organization & Academic Publication at FAU®*

## STRATEGIC ANALYSIS & ALIGNMENT PLAN

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22**

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Undergraduate Law Journal  
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*The Undergraduate Law Journal of Florida Atlantic University is both a Registered Student Organization and one of the university's undergraduate academic research publications. As the only FAU publication centered in law, it is a hallmark platform for undergraduate students interested in legal academia.*

### INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

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The Undergraduate Law Journal of Florida Atlantic University (“ULJ” and/or “Journal”) was founded in 2011 within the College of Business. Through years of persistent expansion, the Journal now serves as a hallmark platform, university-wide, for undergraduate students interested in legal academia.

Starting in 2014, the Journal specifically targeted and fostered its identity as an academic journal and subsequently became an Open Access Journal through the Digital Library at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). In the same year, the Journal became an academic resource available through FAU Digital Library and the FAU Research Repository.

The Journal is closely affiliated with FAU Pre-Law University Services (PLUS) and also remains affiliated within the College of Business (COB). The Journal maintains a Pre-Law Liaison – who is a faculty/staff member within PLUS – on the Journal’s organizational leadership.

The Journal’s main faculty expertise comes from faculty members within the COB. The Journal’s faculty advisors and faculty editing advisors all hold advanced degrees. Most of the faculty advisors and editing advisors hold law degrees, i.e., Juris Doctor (J.D.) and/or are and/or were, practicing attorneys. Secondly, a number of the Journal’s faculty advisors and faculty editing advisors hold advanced degrees in English and Education.

The Journal actively works to ensure that within the ULJ’s faculty leadership/advisors there is always at least one faculty member with a law degree, i.e., Juris Doctor (J.D.), and at least one faculty member with an academic doctoral degree, i.e., Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) and/or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.).

Now with the ULJ’s tailored identity as an academic publication, the ULJ actively employs a stringent combination model of peer and faculty review protocols for all works submitted to the ULJ. As the only FAU publication centered in law, the Journal is committed to remaining a centralized platform for undergraduate legal research, writing, and distinction. Because of this commitment, the ULJ’s logo has always been inscribed with the Latin aphorism, “ISPA SCIENTIA POTETAS EST”, translating to “Knowledge is Power”.

Because of the transitional nature of student positions and editing-focused positions, the Journal has “permanent” and “non-permanent positions”. Because all students eventually graduate and/or separate from FAU, all student positions are “non-permanent”. Faculty editing advisors are also considered “non-permanent positions” since it is based upon the faculty’s yearly availability, and they are not involved with the Journal year-round. The Journal’s “permanent” faculty advisors are Advisor Emerita Cheryl Arflin, J.D., and Advisor Anthony Horky, Esq. Both advisors are on the faculty of the COB. The ULJ’s faculty editing advisors, student editors, and officers, are all considered to be “non-permanent”.

The ULJ disseminates its publication both digitally and in-print, once each academic year. Funding for the Journal is received through FAU’s Council of Student Organizations (COSO).

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### ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

In the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Journal began collecting organizational data to better understand, analyze, and engage the editorial operations of the Journal.



The above graph represents the percentage, from each college, of the FAU students involved with the ULJ. The Journal includes representation from the College of Arts & Letters (17.6%), College of Business (29.4%), College of Social Work & Criminal Justice (11.8%), College of Engineering & Computer Science (11.8%), Honors College (17.6%), and the College of Science (11.8%).

At 29.4% the College of Business has the highest percentage of representation; this quantity is expected as the ULJ was founded within the COB and the majority of faculty representation is from the COB.

The College of Education, College of Nursing, and Graduate College were not represented in the 2020-21 Academic Year. The ULJ continues to be a university-wide platform, and as such, has active outreach efforts to be involved with the remaining non-represented academic colleges.

### MAJORS

- BGS
- Business Management
- Computer Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Finance
- International Studies and Economics
- Law & Society and Philosophy
- Management Information Systems
- Multimedia Journalism
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Communications

### MINORS

- Business Law
- Hospitality
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Economics
- History
- Spanish

The above Majors and Minors were represented in the 2020-21 Academic Year. The variety of Majors and Minors serve as a testament to ULJ's cultivation of intellectual and academic diversity.

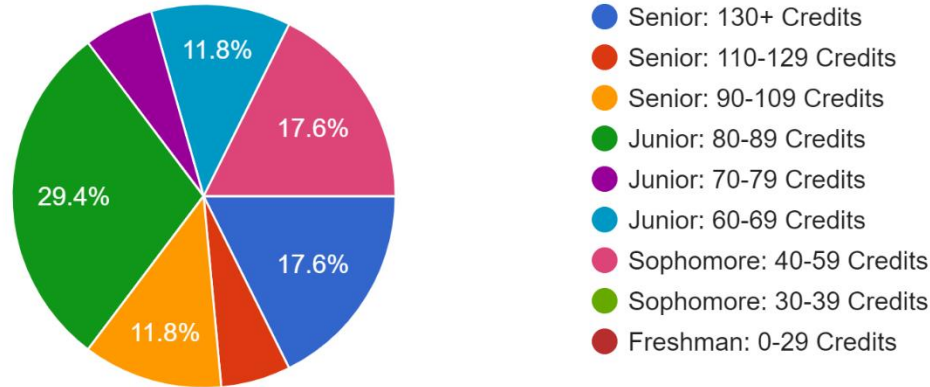
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### ORGANIZATIONAL DATA (CONTINUED)

#### College Credits (Including Current Semester)



The above graph represents the academic standing representation of students involved in the ULJ. The ULJ only collected information pertaining to academic standing and not information pertaining to the year of the student. The academic standing breakdown is as follows: Sophomore (17.6%), Junior (47.1%), and Senior (35.3%).

In the 2020-21 Academic Year, the ULJ also collected data pertaining to student's intent to go on to Law School. In this survey, 47.1% answered IN-STATE intention, 52.9% answered OUT-OF-STATE intention, 17.6% answered UNSURE intention, and 5.9% answered NO intention to attend Law School.

In the 2020-21 Academic Year, the ULJ also collected data pertaining to how students became involved with the ULJ. In this survey, 18.8% answered WORD-OF-MOUTH, 31.3% answered FORMER INVOLVEMENT, 25% answered ULJ SOCIAL MEDIA, 12.5% answered FAU SOCIAL MEDIA (NOT INCLUDING ULJ RAN ACCOUNTS), 18.8% answered FACULTY MEMBER, and 6.3% answered PHI ALPHA DELTA PRE-LAW FRATERNITY.

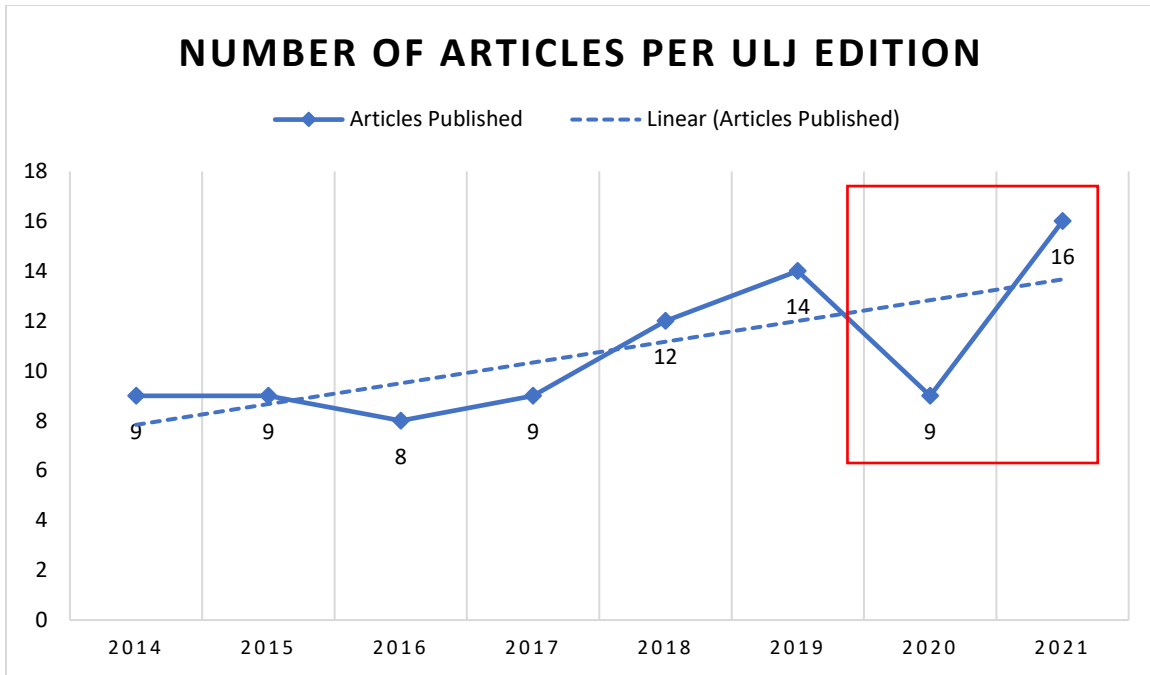
At 25%, ULJ social media is the highest statistical method through which students are becoming involved. It should be noted that in the 2020-21 Academic Year, the ULJ completely changed their marketing, branding, and social media model. These changes included the total re-branding of the ULJ imagery and marketing material, as well as creating completely new Instagram and LinkedIn accounts.

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### ORGANIZATIONAL DATA (CONTINUED)



After stringent review and selection, a number of articles are published in the ULJ's yearly editions. The above graph represents the number of articles published each ULJ edition. The data begins at 2014 where the Journal became an Open Access Journal through the FAU Digital Library and Research Repository. The graph does not include any data from the 2011 to 2013 editions.

From 2014 to 2015 the Journal saw the same number of articles published. In 2016, that number decreased by one (1) article. From 2017 to 2019 the Journal saw a consistent rise in the number of articles published. Both the 2018 and 2019 editions were higher than the Journal's linear trend.

In 2020, the number of articles published reached an all-time low since 2017. This drop has two major contributing components: 1 – The sudden onset of difficulties due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2 – Associated difficulties in communication, leadership, and stability.

The following year, 2021, the number of articles published reached an all-time high in the entire history of the ULJ. The number of articles published in 2021 was also higher than the Journal's linear trend. The sudden rise has three major components: 1 – Total rebranding, marketing, and outreach of the ULJ, 2 – Stability in leadership and Communication, 3 – Initial realignment efforts for long-term success of the Journal.

In the 2021-22 Academic Year, the ULJ will continue data collection with the current queries and also supplement new queries as such: Year at FAU; Intent to go to Graduate School; Research, Authorship, & Publication Involvement; Office of Undergraduate Research & Inquiry (OURI) involvement.

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### STRATEGIC PLAN & QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP) ALIGNMENT

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Since 2011, the Journal has been focused on driving legal academia and undergraduate involvement, however, has not had tailored alignment with the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan (“Strategic Plan”) nor the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Progressively, the Journal has had a continuous working relationship with the Office of Undergraduate Research & Inquiry. The College of Business and Florida Atlantic University have previously utilized data from the ULJ to ensure accreditation.

With the total rebranding, marketing, and outreach model of the ULJ in 2021, the ULJ became significantly more aligned with the Strategic Plan and the QEP.

The ULJ now remains with the same mission of driving legal academia and undergraduate involvement, however, now has tailored efforts in connecting and promoting with undergraduate research, writing, and distinction.

Since its founding, the ULJ has worked in tandem with University Libraries, the Office of Undergraduate Research & Inquiry (OURI), the College of Business, Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), and Pre-Law University Services. And through these strategic changes, the ULJ has significantly contributed to expanding, promoting, and embracing FAU’s distinctive research culture and academic diversity.

In the 2021-22 Academic Year, the ULJ continues to (1) more closely work with OURI and WAC, (2) find success through its Research Pilot Program, and (3) continue strategic and specified marketing efforts in alignment with the ULJ Strategic Alignment Plan.

The ULJ has embraced two new unofficial slogans:

- Legal Research. Writing. Distinction
- Undergraduate Research. Writing. Distinction.

### RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAM

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For the 2021-22 Academic Year, the ULJ has launched its Research Pilot Program (RPP). The RPP is a strategic program to emphasize the Journal’s contribution to FAU’s research culture and academic diversity.

The RPP also sets a new requirement for publication. Students wishing to publish must now complete the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Certificate Course through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program. The CITI Program is free of cost to all FAU affiliated students.

The RCR Certificate Course covers authorship, publication, conflict of interest, plagiarism, among other several topics that are pertinent to ULJ publication.

Because the RCR Certificate is an entry-requirement for the majority of undergraduate research opportunities, the ULJ hopes that by having its authors complete the Certificate, the ULJ will (1) continue to increase its academic credibility, (2) continue to increase its research contribution, and (3) welcome students into undergraduate research and academia.

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### IMPACT

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As both a Registered Student Organization and an undergraduate academic research publication, the ULJ has and continues to have a significant impact in FAU's undergraduate experience and innovative culture.

#### Main Impact Points:

- The ULJ is an open access Journal available thru FAU Digital Library and FAU Research Repository, digitally available to all FAU Students, as well as the general public.
- The majority of ULJ authors have contributed, in some way, to WAC and/or have participated in the Provost's Publication Award Ceremony.
- The ULJ contributes to FAU's external research recognition since all ULJ articles are publicly available for research and readership.
- The ULJ contributes to FAU's external research recognition since all ULJ articles are available on Google Scholar. All ULJ articles on Google Scholar show their affiliation with FAU.
- The ULJ contributes to FAU's internal research recognition because of the ULJ & ULJ involved students, through the students' involvement with OURI, WAC, and the Division of Research.
- The ULJ continues to work and collaborate with the College of Business and University Libraries.
- In the 2021-22 Academic Year, University Libraries will introduce the ULJ into its general collection. The ULJ has spearheaded efforts alongside University Libraries in showcasing student research and promoting FAU's research culture.

### STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

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The ULJ will continue to strategically collaborate across entities in the university-wide community, including but not limited to:

- University Libraries
- College of Business
- School of Accounting in the COB
- College of Arts & Letters
- College of Social Work & Criminal Justice
- Writing Across Curriculum
- Student Activities & Involvement
- Council of Student Organizations
- Office of Undergraduate Research & Inquiry

For the 2021-22 Academic Year, the ULJ will continue to partner with numerous entities across the university-wide community to ensure overall success of students and the ULJ.

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### CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO IMPACT

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The ULJ remains committed to facilitating, fostering, and promoting legal academia. We will continue to allow students from a variety of academic background to explore their interests in the law by fostering their legal research and writing skills.

The ULJ will continue to ensure alignment and support the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan and Quality Enhancement Plan. Through strategic direction, the ULJ proudly has and will continue to enhance the undergraduate experience and serve as a hallmark platform for FAU's pre-law community.

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*ULJ Leadership at the time of this Analysis/Plan:*

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