

**National Sea Grant Law Center
Request for Proposals**

Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal Symposium Competition

Executive Summary

Funding Source: National Sea Grant Law Center, University of Mississippi using pass-through federal funds from NOAA Sea Grant

Funding Opportunity Title: Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal Symposium Competition

Announcement Type: Notice of Request for Proposals

Timetable: Letters of Intent must be received by 5 p.m. Central Time on Friday, December, 8 2023. Full proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Central Time on Friday, February 2, 2024. Applicants may submit proposals for funding of symposia to be held in 2024 or 2025 with *Sea Grant Law & Policy Journal* issue publication in 2025 or 2026. The anticipated award start date is July 1, 2024.

Funding Opportunity Description: The National Sea Grant Law Center is accepting applications from Sea Grant Programs and accredited law schools with documented partnerships with Sea Grant Programs to organize and host academic symposiums addressing priority ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes law and policy topics. Applicants may seek funding support for an in-person, virtual, or hybrid conference. The symposia must result in the generation of a minimum of six, peer-reviewed articles for publication by the National Sea Grant Law Center in a special issue of the *Sea Grant Law & Policy Journal (Journal)*. Funding is limited to \$25,000 per symposium and the Law Center anticipates selecting up to four proposals for funding. Matching funds will not be required.

Background

The National Sea Grant Law Center is one of 34 university-based Sea Grant Programs. Established in 2002, the Law Center is a nationally recognized and respected resource for information on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes law. The Law Center fulfills its mission by implementing integrated legal programming based on the three legs of the Sea Grant “stool” – research, education, and outreach, which includes extension and communications. U.S. ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes law is a complicated matrix of international, federal, state, tribal, and local law. There is a significant need and demand for high-quality, thorough, non-advocacy applied legal research and analysis to address ongoing and emerging management challenges.

The National Sea Grant Law Center contributes to the development and dissemination of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes law and policy research through its publication of the *Journal*. In 2008, the Law Center re-launched the *Journal*, which had previously been published by the State University of New York at Buffalo from 1976-1980. The *Journal* is an Open Access, peer-reviewed online journal that provides a forum for the timely discussion and exploration of

legal topics of relevance to the Sea Grant network of extension agents, researchers, coastal managers and users, and local decision-makers. The *Journal* features concise articles on a range of law and policy subjects including fisheries, aquaculture, coastal development, coastal access, invasive species, and pollution. Unlike traditional law reviews, the *Journal* seeks to highlight more applied research and case studies.

For more information on the *Journal* and previous symposium funded by the Law Center, see: <http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/sglpj/index.html>.

Full Announcement

The National Sea Grant Law Center is part of the National Sea Grant College Program. The Law Center strives to support the creation of new law and policy knowledge through rigorous, peer-reviewed research competitions. Towards that end, the Law Center requests proposals from eligible applicants to organize and host academic symposiums and produce symposium proceedings addressing priority ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes law and policy topics.

This announcement provides the following information:

1. Eligible Applicants
2. Funding Priorities
3. Funding Levels
4. Letters of Intent Format
5. Proposal Format
6. Proposal Submission Instructions
7. Evaluation Procedure
8. Evaluation Criteria
9. Deadline and Submission Information
10. Timetable

Eligible Applicants

The National Sea Grant Law Center is accepting applications from Sea Grant programs and accredited law schools with documented partnerships with Sea Grant Programs to organize and host academic symposiums and produce symposium proceedings addressing priority ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes law and policy topics.

Sea Grant champions diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by recruiting, retaining and preparing a diverse workforce, and proactively engaging and serving the diverse populations of coastal communities. Sea Grant is committed to building inclusive research programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives, and ways of thinking. We encourage applicants of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital statuses, education levels, job classifications, veteran status types, and income and socioeconomic status types to apply for this opportunity.

Only those applicants who submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by the required deadline are subsequently eligible to submit full proposals.

Funding Priorities

The National Sea Grant Law Center is soliciting applications for academic symposiums featuring law and policy scholars and addressing priority ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes law and policy topics. While interdisciplinary symposiums are encouraged, the proposed symposium must be designed to produce at least six, peer-reviewed scholarly articles written by law or policy professionals, i.e. law professors, practicing attorneys, policy analysts, or graduate students, in adherence with relevant academic standards and the *Journal's* publication guidelines available at <http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/SGLPJ/guidelines.htm>.

Funding Levels

The recommended funding request for the *Sea Grant Law and Policy Symposium Competition* grants is \$25,000. Matching funds are not required. The National Sea Grant Law Center anticipates sufficient funding to make up to four grant awards.

Letters of Intent Format

To be eligible to submit a full proposal, a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required. LOIs will help the National Sea Grant Law Center identify the required number and qualifications of reviewers and provide feedback to applicants on the appropriateness of the proposed research projects for the *Sea Grant Law and Policy Symposium Competition*. Regardless of the Law Center's feedback, any applicant that submits an eligible LOI may submit a full proposal.

The LOI (max. 2 page not including CVs) shall consist of the following:

1. Anticipated title of the proposed project.
2. Expected project duration (anticipated start date of July 1, 2024). PIs may propose projects with timelines up to 24 months.
3. Total budget request estimate.
4. Lead Principal Investigator: Name, Title, Institutional Affiliation, Contact Information, two-page Curriculum Vitae or Biosketch.
5. Known and Anticipated Co-Investigator(s): Name, Title, Institutional Affiliation, Contact Information, two-page Curriculum Vitae or Biosketch.
6. Brief summary of the proposed symposium that clearly identifies the symposium topic, symposium objectives and rationale, and how the proposed symposium will develop or enhance the legal capacity of the relevant Sea Grant program to address legal issues in their state.
7. Brief statement of the applicant's qualifications, specifically, the education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources necessary to accomplish the proposed symposium and solicitation of articles.

8. For law school applicants, the Sea Grant Program partner: Name, Contact Information.

The LOI must be submitted in PDF format via email to Lauren Fremin, Project Coordinator for the National Sea Grant Law Center, via email, lrfremin@olemiss.edu, no later than 5:00 p.m. Central Time on Friday, December 8, 2023. An email confirming receipt of the LOI will be sent within 24 business hours. Applicants not receiving a confirmation email should contact Lauren Fremin at (662) 915-7187 before the closing time of the competition to determine if the LOI should be resent.

Proposal Format

Proposals are to be submitted as a single file in pdf format via email. The instructions provided below for submitting proposals must be followed. Information requested for each of the following sections must be included in the proposal. Incomplete or inappropriately prepared proposals will not be considered and may be returned.

Cover Page

The proposal should include a cover page listing the title of the proposal; names, titles, affiliations, and contact information of the PI and any co-PIs.

Project Narrative

The maximum length for the narrative is 10 pages using a minimum of 12-point font (1-inch margins). Additional pages will not be considered, and the entire proposal rejected if the stated number of pages is exceeded. The project narrative must include the following subsections:

1. **Project Abstract.** Provide a general summary of the purpose of the project, activities to be performed, expected outcomes, and intended beneficiaries (limit 500 words).
2. **Project Background:** Explain the specific ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes law opportunities and challenges this project seeks to address and justify its importance. Applicants should clearly identify:
 - a. The proposed symposium topic.
 - b. How the proceedings resulting from the proposed symposium would fill an identified gap in the law and policy literature related to management of U.S. coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources.
 - c. The proposed symposium's relevance to one or more of the following Sea Grant focus areas: Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, Resilient Communities and Economies, and Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development.
 - d. How the proposed symposium will develop or enhance the legal capacity of the relevant Sea Grant program to address legal issues in their state.
3. **Project Objectives:** Provide a list of clearly defined objectives and how those objectives align with goals and priorities of this RFP.
4. **Project Details:** Provide an explanation of the methods you will use to address your project objectives. Applicants must clearly describe how the symposium will be organized, advertised, and carried out; the method for identification and selection of speakers and

securing articles; the method for identification and selection of at least two peer reviewers per article; and the roles, responsibilities, and expertise of project partners. Applicants must detail the anticipated engagement and outreach approach, including key audiences you plan to work with and specific outreach strategies to share results. Applicants will be responsible for all logistics associated with the symposium, securing peer reviewers and articles from symposium speakers or other authors and working with the Law Center to shepherd individual articles through the peer review and editing process. In addition, the Editor of the *Journal* and the Law Center's Project Coordinator must serve on the symposia planning committee in order to stay informed about symposia logistics, the proposed approach for the solicitation of articles, selection of speakers and peer reviewers, and involvement of the law school or Sea Grant partner.

5. **Anticipated Outcomes and Results.** Detail the anticipated results of this symposium and which specific key audiences would benefit from or apply the results. Symposiums must result in the production of high quality proceedings (a minimum of six articles, one of which can be an introduction to the special issue). Symposium proceedings will be published as a special issue of the *Journal*.
6. **Project Timeline.** Applicants may propose project timelines of up to 24 months. Applicants may propose to hold symposiums in either 2024 or 2025 with *Journal* issue publication in 2025 or 2026. Proposals should specify the anticipated time frame for your proposed symposium and the publication of symposium proceedings. Applicants should detail when key symposium planning activities and outputs would occur, including the solicitation of articles and peer reviewers, selection of speakers, as well as other symposia promotion and logistics. All proposals must show a start date of July 1, 2024.

Literature Cited

References required if used in the proposal; citation of literature is important to establish the familiarity and expertise of the PI to the subject in the proposal. Include full citation: name of author, title, and location in the literature (no maximum length, single-spaced).

Budget and Justification

A Budget and a Budget Justification are required. The Budget should be prepared using the standard Sea Grant 90-4 budget form available at <https://nsglc.olemiss.edu/funding/index.html>. The narrative Budget Justification should itemize and explain all budget items in sufficient detail to enable reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of the funding requested. Please pay special attention to any travel, supply, or promotional budgets and provide details. Subcontracts, if any, should have a separate budget page and justification.

Applicants may include indirect (F&A) costs in their budget at their institution's federally negotiated appropriate rate for the activity proposed.

Curriculum Vitae

The maximum length is two pages for each principal and co-principal investigator. The vitae must provide evidence of the investigator's education, qualifications, and experience in the field.

Letters of Commitment and Support

The National Sea Grant Law Center requires letters of commitment from any stated collaborators or partners providing funding support or implementing aspects of the proposed symposium.

For law school applicants, a letter of support is required from a partner Sea Grant Program which demonstrates engagement in symposium planning and activities.

The Law Center encourages up to three letters of support from interested parties to highlight the project's importance and potential benefit.

Applicant Demographics Questionnaire

After submission of full proposals, all PIs and co-PIs will be asked to fill out a questionnaire in order to help the National Sea Grant Office assess the demographics of applicants to this research competition. Any PI responses will be anonymous with no linkage to their proposal submission. A response to the questionnaire is voluntary and will play no role in the funding decision-making process.

Data Management Plan & Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire

To be recommended for funding, applicants must provide a valid environmental data management plan (or alternative statement if no data management plan is needed), as well as a completed Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (and copies of associated permits, if applicable). Additional guidance about how to provide this information will be provided to successful applicants upon notice of selection for funding.

Proposal Submission Instructions

Please combine all proposal documents into one PDF file. The proposal should be submitted to Lauren Fremin, Project Coordinator for the National Sea Grant Law Center, via email, lrfremin@olemiss.edu. If you encounter technical difficulties during submission or do not receive an email response acknowledging receipt before the closing time of the competition, please contact Lauren Fremin at (662) 915-7187 as soon as possible. Submissions must be received no later than 5:00 pm Central Time on **Friday, February 2, 2024**.

Evaluation Procedure

Letters of Intent will be reviewed by the National Sea Grant Law Center for appropriateness to the grant program. Each full proposal received will be reviewed by three external peer reviewers using the criteria set forth below. Proposals will then be reviewed, scored, and ranked by a Technical Review Panel (TRP) guided by the peer reviews and objective criteria listed below. Individuals selected to serve as peer reviewers or TRP members will be attorneys, resource managers, academics, and Sea Grant personnel familiar with current ocean, coastal, and marine issues free from conflict of interest. Final funding decisions will be made by the National Sea Grant Law Center Director based on the TRP scores as well as the following additional considerations: availability of funding, geographic diversity, and balance among research areas.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance (25%)
 - The degree to which the symposium will address an important ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes law or policy issue;
 - Relevance to Sea Grant focus area.
2. Project merit, objectives, methods and feasibility (35%)
 - Clear project goals and objectives;
 - Practical soundness of the proposed approach;
 - Likelihood of success;
 - Adequacy and reasonableness of the budget, resources and personnel dedicated to the project;
 - Appropriate and effective methods, including solicitation of articles, peer review process, and promotion and outreach plan;
 - Appropriate timeframe to complete the project
3. Societal impact and diversity (15%)
 - The degree to which the proposed research will have a positive impact on society, specifically, the likelihood that the symposium will contribute to improved understanding of ocean, coastal, or marine law or policy and fill a gap in the law and policy literature while considering diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and/or accessibility.
 - Opportunity for law student and/or other graduate student involvement.
 - The degree to which the symposium will provide an equitable engagement and outreach strategy.
 - The degree to which the symposium engages underserved communities in addressing an important ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes law or policy issue.
4. Qualifications of the research team and results from prior work, including work funded by the National Sea Grant Law Center (if applicable) (10%)
 - Qualifications of the PI, partners and institutions, specifically, the education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources necessary to accomplish the proposed activities;
 - Whether researchers previously funded by the National Sea Grant Law Center were successful in accomplishing their prior projects.
5. Enhancement of Sea Grant Legal Capacity (15%)
 - Degree to which proposal develops or enhances relationships between state Sea Grant program and law school partner.
 - Degree to which symposium has the potential to improve the Sea Grant Program's ability to address law and policy issues within their respective state.

Deadline and Submission Information

Letters of Intent must be received by 5 p.m. Central Time on Friday, December 8, 2023. Full proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Central Time on Friday, February 2, 2024. Full proposals and Letters of Intent should be submitted in PDF format via email to Lauren Fremin at lrfremin@olemiss.edu.

General questions about the *Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal Symposium Competition* and the scope of projects considered should be directed to Stephanie Otts, Director of the National Sea Grant Law Center, via email, sshowalt@olemiss.edu, or phone, (662) 915-7714. General questions about the application process should be directed to Lauren Fremin, Project Coordinator for the National Sea Grant Law Center, via email, lrfremin@olemiss.edu.

Timetable

The Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal Symposium Competition process takes approximately 6-8 months from the request for proposals to the initiation date. The following dates provide milestones throughout the process:

RFP Released:	September 29, 2023
Letters of Intent Due:	December 8, 2023
Full Proposals Due:	February 2, 2024
Notification of Project Selection:	May 31, 2024
Award Start Date:	July 1, 2024