

Journal of Health and Life Sciences Law Author Guidelines

The Journal's Purpose

The Journal of Health and Life Sciences Law (Journal) is an electronic publication that is published three times per year. Each issue contains in-depth, professionally reviewed articles for intermediate and advanced health lawyers. Submissions are well researched and thoroughly referenced, providing an in-depth and balanced treatment of a topic. Each article addresses a matter of current interest and aims to provide practical import to our readers.

Call for Authors

AHLA encourages attorneys and others with expertise in the area of health and life sciences law to consider submitting a manuscript at any time throughout the year. If your office recently prepared a substantial legal memorandum, brief, or presentation on a timely health care legal topic, consider further developing your work into a submission. AHLA welcomes prospective authors to enlist colleagues as co-authors who will share the work.

Article Submissions and Acceptance

The Journal welcomes unsolicited articles at any time. Submitted articles undergo professional review for the next available issue. AHLA's editorial staff—in conjunction with the Journal's Editorial Board—has the discretion to accept or reject articles based on a number of factors, such as the article's merit, the need for information on the topic, or the mix of articles within a particular issue of the Journal. AHLA's editors may accept an article for publication on the basis of the initial submission, but more commonly, a decision is made after the author has revised the submission following professional review. The Journal does not compensate authors.

Professional Review

AHLA's editorial staff and at least two members of the Journal's Editorial Board closely review article submissions and typically offer extensive comments on the article's substance and form. If the author is agreeable to revising his/her initial submission, AHLA's editorial staff will work with the author to create a publication schedule.

Editing

After the author has revised his/her manuscript following professional review, and the article has been approved by the Journal's Editorial Board for publication, AHLA's editorial staff will copyedit the manuscript, and a citations editor will verify all footnote sources/references to ensure they are Bluebook compliant. The author will have the opportunity to review the edited article and address any queries that emerge from the editing process. Due to time constraints, Journal authors do not review page proofs.

Copyright

Articles submitted exclusively to AHLA's Journal will be given preference in the selection

process. Prior publication of an author's article (or an earlier version of it) in other periodicals (journals, magazines, newsletters), textbooks, treatises, conferences, websites, outlets, etc. will be considered for the Journal only under certain circumstances. If an article is accepted for publication, AHLA will ask the author to sign a copyright release. AHLA generally grants permissions to reprint articles for educational purposes. If an AHLA Journal article is used for general educational purposes, the author must ensure that reproductions of the article properly reflect AHLA's copyright, as specified in the copyright release.

AHLA will provide authors with .pdfs of their final published articles. An author may post his/her article online with permission from AHLA two months after the new issue has launched. The Journal is an exclusive AHLA membership benefit; in the two months immediately following the launch of a new issue, AHLA focuses its marketing efforts on AHLA members. The Journal is available to AHLA members and paying subscribers. It is also available through Lexis, Westlaw, and certain online subscription services (e.g., EBSCO, William S. Hein).

Manuscript Preparation

- Submit manuscripts in Microsoft Word.
- Include the text of the article and footnotes in a single file.
- Include an abstract (250 words or less), introduction, and conclusion.
- Include author profiles for all authors (each profile must be 150 words or less).
- Where applicable, include practical tools referenced in the article, such as sample contracts, model policies, checklists, and forms. These materials will be reformatted and can be generalized to remove any identifying information.

General Style Guidelines

- Provide complete references throughout the article.
- Number footnotes consecutively, from the beginning of the article to the end.
- Conform citations to *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*. If you cannot, our citations editor will do this for you.
- Wherever possible, incorporate explanatory text and quotations into the text of the article, rather than in the footnotes.
- Cite to official reporters or media neutral docket numbers, not Westlaw or Lexis.
- Provide web addresses where direct access would be useful to readers.

Types of Journal Articles

We do not have a word limit for any of the Journal articles since the Journal is an online publication.

- 1) The **Featured Article** is a lengthy and comprehensive treatment/deep legal analysis of a health law issue that directly impacts one's legal practice. It must have practical application and provide practical takeaways for the intermediate to advanced health law attorney. The Featured Article discusses all sides to an issue in an objective manner.
- 2) The **Note or Comment** allows an author to share a "stronger point of view." Despite this allowance, the tone of the article should not be argumentative and must still address all side(s) of the discussion. A Note or Comment is less editorial in style than a Brief Insight

(explained in greater detail below) and still provides a deeper legal analysis of the issue. A Note or Comment can be authored by seasoned health law attorneys who have been practicing for years, or they can be authored by law students who self-submit or have been recommended by their law school professor(s).

- 3) The **Practice Resource** focuses more on offering practical application tools for the health law attorney (rather than providing a lengthy and comprehensive legal analysis of a health law issue). The Practice Resource provides enough information about an issue to provide necessary background, but devotes much of its content to tools that an attorney can utilize in his/her practice, such as checklists, sample contract clauses, charts/flowcharts, best practices, informational graphics, a list of considerations, etc.
- 4) A **Brief Insight** is a short essay that reflects on an emerging health law topic, an unsettled area of law, or ongoing debate. As such, the Brief Insight allows for more commentary and an “editorial tone” by the author. A Brief Insight can be written by seasoned health law attorneys who have been practicing for years, or they can be authored by law students who self-submit or have been recommended by their law school professor(s).

Inquiries

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