Modern Law Review: Author Guidelines
September 2026

The Modern Law Review is a generalist journal with an international audience that accepts submissions in relation to all approaches to legal inquiry and in relation to all areas of law. The Review does not generally publish jurisdiction-specific analyses, save for those that reflect our status as a UK-based journal.

Submissions

Contributions to the Articles, Case Notes and Legislation sections should be submitted through our online submission system which can be accessed at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/mlr. Please upload an anonymised version, which must be in Microsoft Word .doc or .docx format, for the review process, as well as a title page that includes the following information: title, author name/s, affiliation/s and any acknowledgements. In addition, a statement of the number of words, including and excluding footnotes, should be included. Submissions should be formatted with double spacing in both the main body of the text and footnotes, with margins on both sides. Manuscripts that are not formatted in MLR house style (see below) will not be considered for publication.

On submission, authors will be asked to confirm that their manuscript has been submitted solely to this journal and is not published, in press, or submitted elsewhere. The MLR does not accept submissions that have been developed in whole or in part with the help of artificial intelligence tools (AI). All submissions will be subject to AI screening checks. Where a submission raises serious concerns about its accuracy and/or integrity, then we shall retain a record of this. Future submissions by the same author shall be subject to additional checks for the purpose of maintaining journal quality standards.

Please note the Modern Law Review does not generally publish more than one article from any author in a single year. Advice should be sought from the editors of the relevant section before submission for guidance if this is a relevant consideration.

Articles

The MLR welcomes submissions from all legal and regulatory fields and all approaches to legal scholarship, especially where it is of interest to its core UK-based readership. Articles should not normally exceed 12,000 words (excluding footnotes). Articles more than 15,000 words (inc. footnotes) will not be considered for publication.

Enquiries should be sent to: mlrarticles@lse.ac.uk.

Legislation and Reports

A distinctive feature of the MLR is the Legislation and Reports section, which publishes analyses of recent UK legislation (including from the devolved legislatures), international treaties and official reports proposing legislative change, as well as reviews of the operation of older pieces of legislation. The MLR also welcomes more general analysis of the legislative process, or of the use of legislation, in particular areas of law. Legislation and Reports articles should not normally exceed 10,000 words (excluding footnotes). Legislation and Reports articles of more than 12,500 words (inc. footnotes) will not be considered for publication.

The Legislation and Reports section does not generally publish analysis relating to jurisdictions other than the UK, unless the article makes a clear case for the relevance of the legislation or

report for the UK and adopts a comparative or similar approach. Consistent with the rest of the Review, articles submitted to the Legislation and Reports section should have a robust analytical framework, and not only outline or describe the content of the legislation or report.

Enquiries should be sent to: mlrarticles@lse.ac.uk (FAO Legislation and Reports editor)

Case Notes

Prospective authors may reserve cases in advance. Reservations can be made before or after the relevant decision has been handed down and will last for two months from whichever is the later of: (i) the reservation date; and (ii) the date of judgment. During the period of the reservation, we will not consider any other note on the reserved case. To preserve anonymity, authors should *not* contact editors directly. We will ordinarily only consider notes on decisions that are not subject to appeal, unless the relevant decision has long-lasting and general significance. We will consider notes on non-UK cases, if the relevant decision has significance for UK law. Authors should identify whether the decision is subject to appeal, and why it is significant for UK law, in their cover letter and any email correspondence. Case Notes should not normally exceed 5,000 words (excluding footnotes). Case notes of more than 7,000 words (including footnotes) will not be considered for publication.

Requests for reservations and other enquiries should be sent to: mlrcasenotes@lse.ac.uk.

Review Articles and Reviews

The submission of reviews and review articles should be agreed in advance with a reviews editor. Please do not use the online submission system for Review Essays and Book Reviews. Review Articles should not normally exceed 12,500 words (including footnotes). Book Reviews should not normally exceed 2,000 words (no footnotes are allowed in this format).

All inquiries and submissions should be sent to: reviews.modernlawreview@gmail.com.

Pre-submission English-language editing

Authors for whom English is a second language may choose to have their manuscript professionally edited before submission to improve the English. A list of independent suppliers of editing services can be found at the link here. All services are paid for and arranged by the author, and use of one of these services does not guarantee acceptance or preference for publication.

MLR Artificial Intelligence Disclosure Policy

The MLR adopts a disclosure policy on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and large language models (LLMs) applicable to all authors. The policy is a two-tiered system and operates as follows:

Safe harbour with no disclosure required

Certain uses of AI/LLMs constitute "safe harbour" practices. These include:

- routine copyediting;
- grammar and style polishing;
- translation of quoted passages (provided the translation method is described in the text or footnote);
- data-cleaning;
- use of built-in AI tools as part of database research; or

- text analysis where no AI-generated passages are included in the submitted text.
- idea-generation queries and exploratory searches where no model output is copied into the submitted manuscript also falls within the safe harbour, provided the resulting text is wholly the author's.

Disclosable use
Any other use of LLMs/AI models **must** be disclosed. Authors are required to detail any such non-safe-harbour use in a (brief) statement submitted with the manuscript in the cover note or the title page. Please note that failure to comply with this process may result in your submission being rejected.

The Review Process

At the Modern Law Review we provide an anonymous, fair, independent, expert and robust approach to the review of articles submitted to the different sections of the journal.

Our review process is anonymous from the point of submission. This means that at every stage of the review process, from 'desk review 'to 'referees', an anonymised version of the submission is used. The identity of the author(s) will not be known to the reviewer. All submissions are subject to an initial desk review by the MLR Editorial Committee. Following a positive decision at desk review stage, articles and legislation and reports submissions will be reviewed by two, and in some instances, three referees. Case Note submissions are typically sent to one referee. A decision on publication is taken by the Editorial Committee on the basis of the referees ' reports. Authors may be asked to revise and resubmit a submission, and resubmissions will be sent to referees for review before a decision on publication is made.

We aim to complete the review process, from submission of the article to a publication decision, within 10-12 weeks.

There may be circumstances in which it is not possible to comply with this review process. For example, where, after a long delay, a referee fails to deliver a report and, in the interests of the author, the editors may have to make a decision based on one report. However, we do our utmost to ensure that articles are subject to this review process.

Production Processes and Policies

Licensing
Authors will be required to sign an Exclusive License Form (ELF) for all papers accepted for publication. A copy of the form may be downloaded here. Once the article is in the production process, the corresponding author will receive an email from Wiley's Author Services system which will ask them to log in and will present them with the license form for completion (for all copy for the Articles, Case Notes, Legislation and Book Essays/Book reviews sections of the Review).

Please note that signature of the Exclusive License Form does not affect ownership of copyright in the material. (Government employees need to complete the Author Warranty sections, though copyright in such cases does not need to be assigned). After submission authors will retain the right to publish their paper in various medium/circumstances (please see the form for further details).

Note that the journal's standard copyright agreement allows for self-archiving of different versions of the article under specific conditions. Please click here for more detailed information about self-archiving definitions and policies. Submitted articles that have been posted on SSRN do not need to be removed from SSRN. If the article is accepted the only version of the article that can be posted on SSRN is the accepted one.

Open Access Policy
The MLR is committed to ensuring that the articles we publish are freely available for everyone throughout the globe to access them regardless of ability to pay. Open Access is available to authors of Articles and Legislation & Reports articles, making them free to read, download and share.

There is **zero embargo for Green open access** (self-archiving) for accepted Articles and Legislation & Reports articles.

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In relation to our Articles and Legislation & Reports sections, the MLR has created a fund to cover the costs of making the article open access. This fund is available where the article is not covered by an Open Access agreement with our publisher, Wiley, and does not otherwise benefit from funding to pay for an article processing charge. Our policy is to ensure that any author who expects to submit to the REF2029 will have their Articles or Legislation & Reports article available via Gold open access.

There is no requirement to inform our editors prior to acceptance that you intend to publish your paper open access. All articles are treated in exactly the same way.

Copy editing
Authors are requested to ensure that their articles, notes and reviews comply with the MLR House Style. Submissions are then sent to the MLR Copy Editor who will do a final check of the text prior to sending the article to the publishers.

Proofs
Authors are required to check the proofs of their articles, notes and reviews carefully. When proofs have been compiled, the corresponding author will receive an email alert containing a link to a web site. It is not possible at this stage of the production process for authors to make additional changes or edits to their paper. This part of the process is to check typesetting errors only. Excessive changes made by the author in the proofs, excluding typesetting errors, will be charged separately.

Supplementary Material
The MLR is happy to accept articles with extra material supplied for online-only publication. This may include appendices, supplementary figures, sound files, videoclips etc. These will be posted online with the article. The print version will have a note indicating that extra material

is available online. Please indicate clearly on submission which material is for online only publication. Please note that extra online only material is published as supplied by the author in the same file format and is not copyedited or typeset.

Author Services

Author Services enables corresponding authors to track their article – once it has been accepted – through the production process to publication online and in print. Visit http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/ for more details on online production tracking and for a wealth of resources including FAQs and tips on article preparation, submission and more.

After publication

On publication, authors of articles, case notes, review articles, legislation and reports will receive a PDF file of their contribution to download.

Questions regarding production should be sent to: mlrarticles@lse.ac.uk (FAO Production editor).

Modern Law Review House Style

Manuscripts accepted for publication must be set out according to the Modern Law Review house style.

Please observe the following:

1. Author details:
   In the final version, the author's name should appear under the title. The author's designation should be provided in an asterisked footnote. Acknowledgments can be included here.

2. Abstracts and key words:
   All contributions should be preceded by a list of 5-6 keywords, eg principle subject areas, key reports, legislation and cases cited. Articles, Case Notes as well as contributions to the Legislation and Reports section, should be preceded by a short abstract of 200 words. Abstracts will be printed in the journal, and abstracts and keywords will be posted on-line to facilitate searches by readers.

3. Case notes:
   Notes should set out facts and findings, before proceeding to analysis. It is expected that notes will make substantive engagement with existing doctrine and secondary analysis. Authors should use the term 'note 'or 'case note 'throughout their submission (eg 'This note argues that…..').
   Submissions to this section should make reference to the judgment to be discussed in their title.

4. Review articles and book reviews:
   Set out at the beginning of the review the author's name (in italics), the title of the book (in bold), the place of publication, the publisher, the number of pages, an indication of whether the book is hardback (hb) or paperback (pb) and price.

5. Headings:
   Headings should not be numbered.
   Headings should only be used to add to clarity.
   First level headings should be in bold, capital letters and centred.
   Second level headings should be bold, with only the first letter of the first word (and of proper nouns) to be capitalised.
   Third level headings should be in italics, with each word capitalised.

6. Forms, tables and diagrams:
   These should be set out as clearly as possible, and be of sufficient quality to be reproduced. We recommend that .tif files of 300 dpi are used for halftones and .eps or .tif files of 600 dpi are used for line art. Tables can be supplied in word format.

7. Quotations:
   These should be clearly indicated by single quotation marks, with double quotation marks used for quotes within quotes. Where a quotation is more than about five lines long, it should be indented as a separate paragraph, with a line space above and below,

and with no quotation marks or leader dots. All quotations should remain exactly as in the original. House style should not be used.

8. Latin phrases and non-English expressions:
   Where these are used, they should be italicised unless so common that they have become wholly absorbed into everyday language, such as bona fide. For example:
   res ipsa loquitur
   amicus curiae

9. Abbreviations
   These may be used provided that the name is set out in full, followed by the abbreviation in brackets, at the first usage. For example: Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS). The abbreviation can then be used throughout. No full points should be used in acronyms. For example: MLR, USA, TULRCA.

   Latin abbreviations should be used as follows:
   ibid et seq - italics, no full points or comma eg
   ie cf - roman, no full points

10. Dates
    Should be formatted as follows: 1 January 1996. For date ranges: 1995-96 (not 19956 or 1995-1996).

11. Numbers
    Numbers from one to nine are spelt out in words unless they refer to section or schedule numbers in statutes. Thereafter they appear as numerals. When referring to percentages, use per cent not %.

12. Use of 'ise 'rather than 'ize':
    's 'spellings rather than 'z 'spellings should be used.

13. Abbreviated plurals:
    These do not have an apostrophe before the s. For example: 1970s not 1970's; MPs not MP's.

14. Capital Letters:
    These are to be used only when referring to a specific body, organisation or office or proper nouns. For example: The United Kingdom Government.
    Used as an adjective, no capital is required for government or parliamentary. For example: previous British governments

15. Footnotes:
    Footnote markers in text should follow punctuation marks. The first letter of a footnote should be capitalised except: i. where it is part of Latin abbreviations ibid eg ie cf ii. where it is the letter 's ' referring to a section of a statute iii. where it is a cross reference to another footnote, eg 'n 4 above'.

16. Cross References:
    Cross referencing in the main body of the text should be kept to a minimum. Where requires, such references should be to 'text to note 12', or '000 'where page numbers are to be inserted when correcting proofs.
    In footnotes, English terms (above/below) to be used rather than Latin (supra/infra, ante/post/ op cit/ loc cit). For example: 'n 4 above 'rather than 'op cit n 4'. There is one exception: where the publication/ case is cited in the immediately preceding footnote '*ibid* 'should be used (eg *ibid* 290).

17. Cases:
    Case names should be presented in italics, v in roman type without full point. For example: eg *Brown* v *White*.

    Note the following abbreviations:
    R (not Rex/Regina) Att Gen
    ex p (prefaced by a comma)

    References:
    English/ Scottish cases: The neutral citation should be used for cases decided since January 2001. This should be accompanied by a citation to an official report (where available). For English cases, the official report should be the Law Reports – AC, Ch, QB – if possible. For recent cases, the WLR or All ER reference should be used if there is one. Cases decided pre-2001 should be to the official report. Square brackets should be used around the year of the report where this is essential to find the reference. Where this is not the case because the report has a volume number, the brackets should be round. For Scottish law reports the year is not placed in brackets (eg 1984 SC 111).
    Examples:
    A v *B* [1988] AC 123
    Corr v *IBC Vehicles Ltd* [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884
    Marcic v *Thames Water Utilities Ltd* [2002] EWCA Civ 64, [2002] QB 929 CA

    European cases:
    Judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union or the General Court should be cited by giving their case number and their ECLI reference. For example:
    Case C-41/74 *Van Duyn* v *Home Office* ECLI:EU:C:1974:133
    Judgments/ Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights should be cited giving their case name in italics, the type of decision and the date of the relevant decision. For example:
    Akkum v *Turkey* Application No 21894/93, Merits and Just Satisfaction, 24 March 2005

    Others: American law reports, amongst others, have their own rules. Please follow them as far as possible.

    Specific references to pages of a law report/ quotation from a paragraph should be made with the first page of the report always referred to. For example: *Re Smith* [1989] AC 123, 134
    Smith v *Jones* [2001] EWCA Civ 12 at [25]

18. Statutes:
    In the main body of the text, references should be as follows: section 1 of the Companies Act 1985; Schedule 1 to the Companies Act 1985
    In footnotes, references should be as follows: Companies Act 1985, s 1; Companies Act 1985, Sched 1
    Bill and Act always have capital letters

19. Treaties:
    Names of treaties should be provided in full. Do not italicise names.
    In the main body of the text, references should be as follows: Article 1 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969.
    In footnotes, references should be as follows: Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969, Art 1.

20. Command Papers:
    The title should be italicised and cited as follows: *Royal Commission on Criminal Justice* Report Cm 2263 (1993).
    Command papers are abbreviated as follows:
    1836-1899 C 1956-1986 Cmnd
    1900-1918 Cd 1986 to date Cm
    1919-1956 Cmd

21. Hansard/ Parliamentary papers:
    Parliamentary debates should be cited as follows:
    HC Deb vol 989 col 1472 29 July 1980
    HL Deb vol 414 col 1493 13 November 1980
    HC Standing Committee A col 1093 11 March 1980

    Parliamentary papers should be cited as follows:
    HC 44 (1989)

22. Books, articles and other publications:
    When citing books, articles and other publications, authors 'first names and surnames should be used, eg Jane Smith (except when the author uses their initials followed by their surname, eg J. Smith). Where a publication has more than three authors, only the first author should be named, followed by 'and others'.

    Books should be cited as in the following examples with the titles italicised:
    H. L. A. Hart, *The Concept of Law* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1961)
    Anthony I. Ogus and Eric Barendt, *The Law of Social Security* (London: Butterworths, 3rd ed, 1988)
    Allan Flanders and Hugh Clegg (eds), *The System of Industrial Relations in Great Britain* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1964)
    Karl Marx, *Capital vol 1* (1867, London: Penguin, Eng tr, 1976)

    Contributions to edited books should be cited as follows:
    J. W. Harris, 'Ownership of Land in English Law' in Neil MacCormick and Peter Birks (eds), *The Legal Mind: Essays in Honour of Tony Honore* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986)

Articles published in journals should be cited as in the following examples, using the common abbreviation of the journal whenever possible (where not possible, the full name of the journal should be used and set out in italics):
Richard L. Abel 'Between Market and State: The Legal Profession in Turmoil' (1989) 52 MLR 285
Otto Kahn-Freund, 'The Tangle of the Truck Acts' (1949) 4 *Industrial Law Review* 2.

Where there are no volume numbers for a journal, then square brackets should be used around the year of publication:
Rosalind Dixon, 'Legislative Constitutional Duties and the Judicial Role' [2023] PL 311

If the article is not yet published, the journal should be referenced, followed by '[forthcoming]'. These references can be updated at proof stage.

Specific page references should be as above followed by the relevant page numbers (which should be set out in full (eg 123-124, not 123-4; do not use f or ff):
H. L. A. Hart, *The Concept of Law* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1961) 123-124.
Richard L. Abel, 'Between Market and State: The Legal Profession in Turmoil' (1989) 52 MLR 285, 290.

23. Websites:
Permalinks should be used where possible. This can be done by our copy editor if the author is unfamiliar with that system. Otherwise, URLs should be cited as follows:

Articles:
Amitai Aviram, 'Regulation by Networks' (University of Chicago Law School, Olin Working Paper no. 181, 2003), 14-15 at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=387960 (last visited 15 May 2008)

Reports:
'Human Trafficking: People for Sale' (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2021) at https://www.unodc.org/toc/en/crimes/human-trafficking.html [https://perma.cc/247F-4LHR]

Press articles:
Michael McHugh, 'Children not being used as pawns in fight against terrorism, says police chief' *Belfast Telegraph* 5 September 2019 at https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/children-not-being-usedas-pawns-in-fight-against-terrorism-says-police-chief-38470617.html [https://perma.cc/K922-A3LJ]

Other:
Family Court Statistics Quarterly, July-September 2019-20, Table 23 at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-court-statistics-quarterly-july-toseptember-2020 (last visited 19 July 2022)

Where permalinks are used, there is no need to indicate when the webpage was last visited.