

ANTITRUST LAW JOURNAL

Authors' Guide: Submission, Formatting, and Style

Thank you for your interest in publishing with the *Antitrust Law Journal* (ALJ). This guide is designed to assist authors as they prepare their work for submission.

As a general matter, except as noted below and in the ALJ's other guides (and except as dictated by common sense), the ALJ follows *The Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation* (21st ed.) (Bluebook) for citation form; *The Chicago Manual of Style* (18th ed.) (CMOS) for stylistic matters not addressed by the Bluebook; and the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (Merriam-Webster) ([online edition](#)).

I. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS & LOGISTICS

1. Originality. The ALJ will not consider articles published or slated for publication elsewhere.
 - A. The posting of drafts or working papers on SSRN (or similar, e.g., a university website) is not considered "publication" for purposes of this rule. Similarly, providing written material for purposes of ABA-sponsored CLE such as the Spring Meeting does not constitute "publication."
 - B. If your article is accepted for publication, you may post your draft on SSRN (or similar, e.g., a university website) as long as it includes a notation on the first page that it is "Forthcoming in the Antitrust Law Journal."
2. Subject matter. Submissions must address issues of significant current interest in competition, consumer protection, or data privacy law. We welcome articles and essays from all points of view.
3. Potential conflicts of interest. The ALJ is a forum for sharing ideas with lawyers, economists, judges, policymakers, and academics. It is not a forum for advancing the interests of clients or sponsors. Accordingly, upon submission of an article, authors will be required to answer a brief questionnaire regarding involvement in legal proceedings, funding, and other financial or working relationships. If the article is accepted for publication, all relevant disclosures must be made in the article's biographical footnote.
4. Length and form. Typical ALJ article word counts range from 15,000 to 25,000 words, including footnotes and citations. Standard article submissions should generally fall within that range but may be longer or shorter depending on the circumstances. The ALJ may also consider submissions of essays and replies, which are usually shorter.
5. Quality. The ALJ strives to accept and publish only those articles that make a sufficient and serious analytic contribution to the discussion of the relevant legal or economic issue(s). Submissions should be well written and aimed at those with reasonable experience in antitrust law and economics; submissions should be generally free of typos, grammatical errors, etc.
6. Substantiation. Article submissions should be properly substantiated; all quotes and summaries, as well as most factual assertions, predicate reasoning, etc., should be substantiated

by a footnote with citation to one or more appropriate sources.

- A. Pincites. As a general rule, citations (other than “*see generally*” cites) should include pincites to the exact page or page range being cited.
 - B. Parenthetical explanations. The ALJ favors the use of parentheticals with citations wherever they may be helpful to readers (e.g., to explain the relevance of an authority to the proposition in the text, to provide a supplemental point, etc.). The parenthetical should take the form of a present participial phrase, a quoted sentence, or a short statement that is appropriate in context.
 - C. Introductory signals. Unless the cited authority directly states the proposition at issue, an appropriate introductory signal (e.g., “*See*” or “*Cf.*”) is usually necessary. Follow Bluebook Rule 1.2.
 - D. Alterations of quoted material. Follow Bluebook Rule 5, except that “(cleaned up)” is in many instances an appropriate and desirable parenthetical (where, e.g., the article removes extraneous, non-substantive material such as brackets, quotation marks, ellipses, footnote reference numbers, and internal citations). See [here](#) for further explanation.
7. Bluebook form. All citations and footnotes should be formatted in accordance with the Bluebook, except as noted herein and in the ALJ’s Citation Guide. If a submission is accepted before it is in substantially proper Bluebook form, we may request conforming revisions before or as part of the editing process.
 8. Authors and qualifications. The ALJ will consider submissions with up to three authors (or, in rare circumstances, four authors). For solo-author submissions, the author cannot be a current law school student or have written the submission while in law school. The ALJ requires submission directly from the author(s); third-party submissions will not be accepted.
 9. Submission. To be considered for publication, please email your submission to ALJSubmissions@AmericanBar.org. The ALJ does not require exclusive submission, so please notify us as soon as possible if you accept publication elsewhere.
 10. Peer review. Submissions are reviewed by members of the ALJ Editorial Board and/or outside referees, depending on the circumstances. If reviewers provide written comments, the Board has discretion whether to transmit to authors; any transmitted comments will be anonymized, and comments are generally not provided if the article is not accepted for publication. We will generally make a publication decision within six to eight weeks of submission, if not sooner, depending on reviewer schedules and other factors. If a publication offer is made, it will be contingent on successful completion of the editorial process.
 11. The editorial process and publication. Typically, accepted articles will go through multiple rounds of edits, with one or more members of the ALJ Editorial Board serving as a “primary editor” to work with the author(s) and prepare the article for publication. The average time from an offer until actual publication is generally six to ten months but may be shorter or longer depending on many factors (e.g., the availability of space in upcoming issues, the extent to which edits are required, author and editor schedules, etc.).

12. Supporting materials. Please retain electronic versions of supporting material (i.e., material cited in your submission). If your article is accepted for publication, we will request that you upload this material into a shared folder to facilitate the editing and cite checking process.

II. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ECONOMIST AUTHORS

1. Generally. Articles authored by economists must have relevance for—and be written in a manner that is accessible to—the Journal’s principal audience, which is mostly people with law degrees (practicing lawyers, judges, law professors, and policy makers). Because competition law and economics are closely intertwined, economist authors may need to discuss relevant case law and legal framework. Nonetheless, economist authors should generally focus on economics, and lengthy reviews of case law are usually unnecessary.
2. Limit the math. Unlike articles in economic journals (where lengthy and complex mathematical exposition and proofs are common), ALJ articles should speak to a broader audience by providing accessible written explanations of propositions (while limiting the mathematics to only what is absolutely necessary). The actual expositions and proofs can be provided in an appendix or on the Journal’s supplementary materials website.
3. Math pragmatics. Wherever possible, if mathematical expressions are imported into the article from software such as LaTeX, please put the expressions on a new line (instead of within a string of normal paragraph text); this facilitates the typesetting process.

III. FORMATTING YOUR SUBMISSION

1. Format. Submissions may be in Microsoft Word format (.doc/.docx) or PDF. If your article is accepted for publication, we will require a version in Microsoft Word format.
2. One-space rule. Only one space between sentences and after colons.
3. Author bio/acknowledgments footnote. The first footnote should follow the last author’s name as an asterisk (as opposed to a number; see [here](#) for instructions on how to do this).
 - A. Authors should include (1) their basic title and organizational affiliation, (2) any relevant representation or occupation history related to the article (including with respect to the author’s firm or organization), and (3) any relevant funding or underwriting for the article.
 - B. Authors may include acknowledgments and thanks to research assistants, commentators, etc.
4. Table of contents. ALJ may include tables of contents for long articles.
5. Abstracts. Abstracts are not included in ALJ articles. The online landing pages for ALJ articles, however, now include bullet-point summaries, which are usually three to five bullet points with 25–40 words each. Accordingly, we encourage authors to include an abstract (or better yet, a bullet-point summary) with their submission.

6. Headings.

- A. Heading titles should be in “title case,” as described in CMOS 8.160, except that all words of five or more letters should be capitalized (e.g., Among, Before, After, During, etc.).
- B. The “Introduction” and “Conclusion” headings are not numbered.
- C. Headings are centered and use the following progression:

I. LEVEL ONE: NUMBER WITH ROMAN NUMERALS; TEXT IS ALL CAPS
A. LEVEL TWO: NUMBER WITH CAPITAL LETTERS; TEXT IS SMALL CAPS
1. <i>Level Three: Number with Plain-Text (<u>No Italics!</u>) Arabic Numbering; Text is Italics</i>
a. Level Four: Number with Lower-Case Letters, Text is Regular Font

7. Tables, figures, graphs, and charts.

- A. Titles (labels). Titles should be preceded by “TABLE _:” or “FIGURE _:” (with the underscore representing the table/figure’s number). Titles should be brief but descriptive, should be in ALL CAPS, and should usually include a footnote indicating the source of the information at issue. Always place the title of a table above the table. Place the title of a figure, graph, or chart below the figure, graph, or chart, unless placing the title above makes sense under the circumstances (e.g., to achieve a consistent look with nearby tables).
- B. Size and formatting. Please provide tables, figures, graphs, and charts as native (editable) files (as opposed to pasting them as images within the Word file). All tables, figures, graphs, and charts must ultimately be able to fit within a 4.5”W x 7.25”H printable area (using size 10.5 Times New Roman) and be easily understood in greyscale. We generally do not use color in the printed version but may do so online.

8. Cross-references to footnotes. For *supra* and *infra* cites, use the cross-referencing function in Word. This allows for auto-updating when footnotes are added, removed, or moved and saves considerable time and cost in editing and typesetting.

IV. STYLE & GRAMMAR

1. Passive voice. Avoid passive voice.

2. Numbers. Use Arabic numerals for all numbers other than whole numbers from zero through ten, which are spelled out (“four,” not “4”) unless the number is (a) part of a group or series (“10, 11, 12,” not “ten, 11, 12”), (b) followed by a percentage symbol (“10%,” not “ten %”), (c) part of an equation, (d) the beginning of a sentence, (e) part of (or referring to) a table or

figure, or (f) a reference to a statute, regulation, or similar (e.g., “a Section 1 claim,” “a Part 3 hearing,” “a 6(b) study”). Use commas on numbers larger than 999, including HHI numbers.

3. Percent vs. %. Use “%” with numerals and “percent” when the number is spelled out (“ten percent” and “11%”). *See* Bluebook 6.2(d); *cf.* CMOS 9.20. Use “%” when there are multiple instances in the same paragraph (e.g., “market shares were 50%, 45%, and 5%”).
4. References to your article or portions thereof. When referring to a particular portion of your article, use “Part” (capitalized) (e.g., “discussed above in Part II.C”); do not use “Section” or “Subsection” (except it is generally okay to informally refer to, e.g., “the previous section of this article”). When referring to your article as a whole, use “article” (uncapitalized) (or, as applicable, “essay” or “[editor’s] note”); do not use “paper.”
5. Serial (Oxford) comma. Include the serial comma, i.e., the comma that follows the penultimate item in a list of three or more things. *See* CMOS 6.19.
6. Hyphens. Follow CMOS 7.87–.96 (note: the Hyphenation Guide in CMOS 7.96, is particularly useful). Compound adjectives are usually hyphenated, but compound nouns and adverbs are not. For example, “a price-fixing conspiracy” (adjective, hyphenated) versus “engaged in price fixing” (noun, not hyphenated). Do not hyphenate if words are in Merriam-Webster without hyphenation.
 - A. Exception #1 (closed-up compounds). Close up (one word, no hyphen) the following: all “multi-” compounds (e.g., multidistrict), procompetitive, anticompetitive, policymaking, rulemaking, and most words with those prefixes and suffixes. Also close up overdeterrence and underdeterrence when used as a noun (“the risk of overdeterrence”) but not as an adjective (“over-deterrence risk”).
 - B. Exception #2 (antitrust terms). Do not hyphenate common antitrust terms such as “rule of reason,” even when used as an adjective (e.g., “rule of reason analysis,” not a “rule-of-reason analysis”). Similarly, “Chicago School approach” (not “Chicago-School approach”) is proper, as is “Chicago School-oriented approach.” (Note: “School” is capitalized in references to the “Chicago School.”)
 - C. Exception #3 (specific examples): Hyphenate “cross-elasticity” even when used as a noun (e.g., “the cross-elasticity of demand”). Hyphenate “pre-merger” and “post-merger.”
7. Slashes. Use a slash (/) to indicate merger partners (e.g., GE/Honeywell or Delta/Northwest). Do not italicize these sorts of references.
8. Dashes. Use an en dash (–), not a hyphen (-), in place of the word “to” between numbers, dates, and places to denote extent or duration (e.g., “from 1980–1984” or “the New York–London flight”); insert an en dash with Ctrl+minus sign (Cmd+minus in Mac). An em dash (—) can be used as an alternative to parentheses or commas for setting off a phrase or clause (with no spaces); insert an em dash with Ctrl+Alt+minus sign (Opt+Cmd+minus in Mac).
9. Abbreviations and acronyms. Abbreviations and acronyms in common use in our field (e.g., DOJ, FTC, FCC, SEC) do not need to be defined, but should be spelled out with their first use,

e.g., “Department of Justice” on the first use and “DOJ” on subsequent uses. All other abbreviations and acronyms should be defined using parentheses without quote marks, e.g., “Standard-Setting Organization (SSO)” on the first use and “SSO” on subsequent uses.

- A. U.S. and EU. When used as an adjective, it’s U.S. and EU (e.g., “U.S. antitrust enforcement”; “EU competition authorities”); when used as a noun, it’s United States and European Union (e.g., “policy in the United States”; “enforcement in the European Union”). When using the abbreviated forms, use periods for U.S. and no periods for EU and UK.
 - B. Agencies. “The” should nearly always precede “DOJ” and “FTC” when referring to the agency (e.g., “The DOJ sued,” not “DOJ sued”).
 - C. Merger Guidelines. Following the first mention of the DOJ/FTC Merger Guidelines, refer to the Guidelines in a consistent fashion (i.e., pick one of the following but do not mix-and-match: Guidelines, Merger Guidelines, 2023 Merger Guidelines, DOJ/FTC Merger Guidelines, etc.).
10. Names and titles. The first time referring to an individual, use their first and last name and, if relevant, their title (“FTC Chair John Smith”); thereafter, a casual reference can be used (“Smith” or “Chair Smith”).
- A. The appropriate title to use for an individual depends on the circumstances (e.g., between “Chair Smith,” “former-Chair Smith” and “then-Chair Smith”).
 - B. As a default, follow CMOS 8.20 (instead of Bluebook Rule 8); CMOS 8.20 does not capitalize civil, military, religious, and professional titles unless they immediately precede a personal name (e.g., “FTC Chair John Smith,” but “John Smith, chair of the FTC,” “the president,” and “the director of the Bureau of Competition”).
 - C. In footnotes, a casual reference can be used as the first reference if it is in close proximity to a full reference in a citation (e.g., “As Smith found, this is OK. *See* John J. Smith, *This is OK*, 123 OK L. REV. 456 (2025).”).
 - D. Unless ambiguity threatens, casual references may be used as the first reference for U.S. presidents and Supreme Court justices (e.g., “President Kennedy,” “Justice Scalia”).
11. Statutes and Regulations. Follow Bluebook Rule 6.2(c), which spells out “section” in the text except when referencing provisions of the U.S. Code (in which case “§” is used). However, spell out and capitalize “Section” when referencing antitrust laws (e.g., “a Section 1 claim”).
12. Gender neutrality. Where possible, favor gender-neutral language; except when referring to a specific person, “they” or “their” (or writing around the usage) is typically preferable over “he,” “she,” “he or she,” “his,” “hers,” and “his or hers.” *See also* CMOS 5.265–.266.
13. Data. Except in rare circumstances, “data” is singular, not plural.
14. Emphasis. Avoid unnecessary use of italics, capitalization, and quotation marks to highlight

certain terms or phrases. *Never* underline or bold for emphasis unless the formatting is in quoted source material. Generally, avoid scare quotes; quotation marks should only be used when the words are a quote.

15. Contractions. With few exceptions, contractions are too informal and should not be used.
16. Spelling. Use standard U.S. spelling (e.g., “favor,” not “favour”; “defense,” not “defence”).
17. Latin. Follow Bluebook Rule 7(b). Do not italicize common Latin phrases such as: ad hoc, amicus/amici, certiorari, de facto, de minimis, de novo, “e.g.,” en banc, et al., etc., ex ante, ex post, ex officio, “i.e.,” inter alia, parens patriae, per curiam, per se, prima facie, stare decisis, and vice versa. However, italicize most other Latin words or phrases.
18. Grammar reminders.
 - A. That vs. which. “That” and “which” are not perfect substitutes; “that” is used for a restrictive or defining clause, while “which” introduces a nonrestrictive (or nondefining or parenthetical) clause.
 - B. Who. “Who” is used to refer to people, not companies or things.

See also CMOS 5 (Grammar and Usage).

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