Guidelines for Economist Authors: Supplement to General Submission Guidelines

Goals

1. The Antitrust Law Journal seeks to publish articles that inform the theory and practice of competition law.
2. The audience of the Journal consists primarily of individuals with law degrees (practicing lawyers, judges, law professors, and policy makers), although it also includes individuals with other backgrounds, such as economists. Journal audience members exhibit varying degrees of familiarity and/or comfort with competition law.
3. The Journal seeks to have each published article be accessible to a large majority of its audience.
4. Competition law and economics are closely intertwined. Historically, developments in economic analysis have furthered the theory and practice of competition law. Accordingly, the Journal welcomes and, indeed, encourages articles authored by economists. However, articles submitted by economists for publication in the Journal must be both accessible to the Journal’s audience and formatted consistently with the Journal’s style guidelines.

Preliminary Considerations

1. The Journal takes seriously the job of editing articles. The editors assigned to an article typically spend a substantial amount of time on the editing process.
2. Editors are volunteers and have valuable alternative uses of the time they devote to editing activities.

Guidelines

1. An article authored by an economist must have relevance to the audience of the Journal. That is, an article should inform the practice of competition law by lawyers, judges, policy-makers, and economists serving as consultants and expert witnesses.
2. An article by an economist, in addition to being accessible to the audience of the Journal, must represent not only sound economics, but also an interesting and original application of economics to competition law.
3. Competition law and economics are closely intertwined, and economist authors may need to provide background on the legal framework or the case law. Nonetheless, the focus of articles authored by economists generally should be on economics. A lengthy review of the case law is often not necessary or desirable. There are, however, exceptions. For example, a discussion of the legal framework or case law would be appropriate if the article’s focus was on legal issues and if the article was authored by an economist-lawyer (such as a JD-PhD) or was co-authored with a lawyer.
4. An article by an economist must be written in a manner that is accessible to the audience of the Journal.
   a. In economics journals, it is common for articles to use mathematical modeling and exposition to develop propositions. This approach has advantages when a large portion of the audience is conversant in the mathematics used. In the case of the Journal, however, a large portion of the audience is less likely to have the necessary mathematics background to follow expositions of the type found in economics journals. We recognize that it may be important for an economist author to provide
mathematical exposition and proofs of propositions made in an article. However, in the
text of the article, the author should limit the mathematics used, and instead provide
written explanations of propositions and the reasons why they are true. Important
expositions and proofs can be provided in an appendix or on the Journal supplementary
materials website.

b. Similarly, empirical work and results should be described in a manner accessible to the
audience of the Journal. Technical details may be provided in an appendix or on the
Journal supplementary materials webpage.

c. A useful paradigm for economist authors to keep in mind when writing an article
intended for the Journal is an expert report in litigation. An economist typically writes
an expert report in terms that lawyers and judges can readily understand, with
mathematics provided in a “technical appendix” or omitted entirely.

5. The Journal uses the Bluebook citation format. Economist authors are expected to conform
their articles to this format prior to submission. For the types of works that are most frequently
cited in economist-authored articles in the Journal (e.g., case citations, journal articles, and
books), the conversion from economics journal-style formatting to Bluebook formatting is
straightforward. It is the responsibility of authors, not Journal editors, to perform this
conversion, or to use Bluebook formatting from the outset. Expecting Journal editors to
perform the conversion imposes substantial burdens on the Journal and stresses its limited
resources.