

# **FAQs & Author Guidelines**

As of September 16, 2020



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**What is UC looking for?** A dynamic, punchy, topical article focused on recent developments and/or unique perspectives about construction law and the Forum on Construction Law (FCL). We cover diverse topics concerning the complete construction process and industry. The most popular articles discuss cutting edge developments in construction, new law/regulations, and/or tips/practice oriented skills. Unique articles that provide an author's individualized perspective on a challenging legal question, an event (war story), or a project are welcome for consideration. We also feature FCL members, focus on diversity, and promote FCL special activities.

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**When is UC published?** UC is published three times per year: Winter, Spring, and Summer. Each edition is published roughly one month prior to FCL’s Midwinter, Annual, and Fall meetings. Submissions must be submitted to UC’s editors per the schedule below. The final deadlines are listed below. Due dates for an initial draft will be established between the author and the assigned UC editor.

	<b>Final Draft from Authors</b>	<b>Published</b>
No. 1	May 15	August (Summer)
No. 2	September 1	Early December (Winter)
No. 3	December 1	Early March (Spring)

**How is UC published?** UC is an 8-page hard copy newsletter with a more extended version posted online. The online edition is emailed to all 6,000+ FCL members at the time the paper copy hits members’ mailboxes. The articles are distributed on FCL’s social media sites (@ABAConstruction & facebook.com/ABAConstruction) and we use the hashtag **#ABAUnderConstruction** or **#FCLUC**. We encourage authors to share their article link on their social networks / websites.

## **Editorial Guidelines?**

- **1,000 – 1,500 words.** We can accept longer articles for the online edition.
- **Endnotes.** Sparingly use endnotes. This is a newsletter, not a law review. Bluebook citation is preferred, but **be consistent** with citation format. **Hyperlinks** are encouraged for articles because they will all be published online.
- Use headings to break up the article. Lists (e.g. Top 10 Essential Contract Clauses for Owners) can be an effective organizational mechanism.
- Images, charts, photos, and graphics are encouraged. **Be creative!**
- 12 pt Times New Roman. Double space. 1” margins.
- Number all pages.
- After the title the author(s) name(s) should be listed as:

By \_\_\_\_\_ (name), \_\_\_\_\_(firm name), \_\_\_\_\_(city, state), Division \_\_(#) (Div. name)

- Each version of an article should have a header (flush right) on every page that provides the revision date and who last revised the document. For example:

Tom Dunn Rev. \_\_\_\_\_  
June 26, 2020

- **Do not use** Autofill dates in the header as that will only confuse the reviewer upon opening the document as it fills in the date of review rather than the date of the version.

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- When naming the actual document in Word, also add a date and the initials of whoever last reviewed it. For example: “UC Winter 2020 – Holmes, Robotics – NJS Rev. 06\_26\_20.” This way we can keep straight which is the most current document.
- An excerpt “sample” is attached to show correct article formatting.

## **What information do I need to provide to the editors?**

1. Headshot.
2. Your name, firm name, city, and state as you would like them to be listed.
3. Forum Division that you would like to be listed, if any. (See below for list of Divisions)
4. Sign/return the ABA release form. Please contact the editors for a copy of the release.
5. A one sentence summary of your article which will be included in the FCL’s email summarizing your article. Get people to click on your article by grabbing their attention!
6. Optional: To help with our goal to increase diverse participation in the Forum, please let us know if you identify as any under-represented minority group (this includes but is not limited to those who identify as female, LGBTQ, racial/ethnic minorities, and/or those who are differently-abled).
7. Social media accounts for the authors or the authors’ employers/firms/companies. FCL has social media accounts on LinkedIn, Twitter (@ABAConstruction), Facebook (facebook.com/ABAConstruction), and YouTube. FCL will reference these social media accounts when it posts authors’ *UC* articles.

## **Email Subject Line Conventions for Organizational Purposes**

It will make it much easier to search and keep track of the multitude of emails if the subject lines are descriptive and consistent.

- To save room for author and article title, the prefix for every subject line on any email should be “UC” instead of “Under Construction,” followed by the issue designation. For example – UC Winter 2020.
- For each email about a specific article, the above prefix should be followed by the last name of the lead author and an abbreviated version of the proposed title. For example, for the Holmes article on robotics it would be “Holmes, Robotics,” and the standard email subject would be “UC Winter 2020: Holmes, Robotics.”
- As there can be various issues related to each article we should add what amounts to a sub-heading to the subject line. For example: “UC Winter 2020: Holmes, Robotics – Preliminary Draft [(or Final Draft), author information, etc.]”

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## **File Names**

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## **What if I don’t have a topic to write about?**

Contact *UC*’s editors to express your interest in writing for *UC*. They may have topics to suggest. There may also be opportunities to assist with writing articles concerning a substantive topic or a membership feature.

## **Do I get extra copies of *UC*? Can I republish the article?**

No, we do not provide additional copies to the authors, but we do post the PDF online. You are free to print extra copies of the newsletter. Requests to reproduce/republish should be sent to [coa@americanbar.org](mailto:coa@americanbar.org). You are invited to share the link to your article on your website, social media profiles, and with your colleagues.

*Thank you very much for taking the time to contribute to Under Construction!*

*Tom, Neal, Jean, Mike and Carmela*

The ABA Forum on Construction Law: Divisions

Division 1: Litigation & Dispute Resolution	Division 8: International Construction
Division 2: Contract Documents	Division 9: Subcontractors & Suppliers
Division 3: Design	Division 10: Transportation, Energy & Environment
Division 4: Project Delivery & Construction Technology	Division 11: In-House Counsel
Division 5: General Contractors	Division 12: Owners & Project Finance
Division 6: Workforce Management & Human Resources	Division 13: Government Construction
Division 7: Insurance, Surety & Liens	Young Lawyers

- A more thorough description of the Divisions can be found at [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/construction\\_industry/divisions/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/construction_industry/divisions/)

**The Emerging Role of Robots in the Construction Industry**

**Nicholas K. Holmes, Esq., Devine, Millimet & Branch, PA  
Manchester, NH  
and  
Jason Walker, Waypoint Robotics  
Merrimack, NH  
Division 5 (General Contractors)**

Advances in the field of robotics will lead to the increased use of autonomous robots in the construction industry to improve productivity while at the same time helping alleviate the shortage of skilled labor.

Until recently, the concept of robots working in the construction industry seemed far-fetched, but the idea is rapidly becoming a reality. Unlike factories and warehouses where robots have long been in use, construction sites are a much more difficult and challenging environment.

**The Construction Industry is Facing Unprecedented Challenges**

There are not enough skilled construction workers to meet the demand. Expanding markets combined with a shrinking labor pool pose a real problem for the construction industry. As Ken Simonson, chief economist for the AGC, recently noted, even as firms in many parts of the country are trying to keep pace with growing demand for construction services, they “are having a hard time finding and hiring enough qualified workers as the pool of available workers remains very tight.”<sup>1</sup> As a result, in March 2018 248,000 jobs were left unfilled across the United States according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.agc.org/news/2018/05/18/construction-employment-rises-38-states-and-dc-april-2017-april-2018-while-29-states>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.bls.gov/news.release/jolts.a.htm#jolts\\_tablea.f.1](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/jolts.a.htm#jolts_tablea.f.1)