

ASCE
JOURNAL OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN ENGINEERING
AND PRACTICE

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

LADR accepts scholarly research and professionally informed articles that reflect in-depth study and include analysis of the subject. The *Journal* accepts case studies and articles about such topics as emerging fields, jurisprudence, government law, and practice that are relevant to the engineer, civil engineer, or construction manager, in particular.

The *Journal* accepts papers and articles spanning legal issues and litigation pertaining to all areas of engineering and construction, including

Contract law and interpretation; professional liability and negligence; public bidding law and regulation; negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and alternative dispute resolution systems; tort and insurance law; workers' compensation; environmental law and compliance; sustainability and climate change; acts and statutes governing design and construction of public or private projects; state and federal hazardous waste law; maritime, coastal, and ocean law; real estate development and construction law; product liability; labor and employment law; administrative law; government contracts; corporate and bankruptcy law and regulation; claims analysis, defense, and litigation; intellectual property law; land-use law; ADA and OSHA compliance law and regulations; immigration law for engineers and construction managers; ethical violations giving rise to liability; and the teaching of law to engineers and construction managers.

Articles should discuss the application of legal principles to particular circumstances concerning the practice of engineering or the avoidance or resolution of construction-related disputes. The journal does not favor general instruction on basic legal principles. If a law that is the subject of an article is limited to a particular jurisdiction, the article should discuss the limitation and describe the reasons for the limitation. In general, the law being discussed should have general applicability to the subject being discussed and should cover general principles of law. Citations should conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style* and can include a list of cases, a list of acts and statutes, references cited, and endnotes.

Authors who are engineers but not lawyers should understand how to research and discuss legal principles. The quality of the legal analysis should be such that the article is authoritative and instrumental to those who teach construction law or to lawyers and consultants engaged in resolving disputes involving legal principles.

Authors should consider the following while preparing their manuscript:

1. **Readability:** Papers must explain the subject that they are discussing. Papers written in incomprehensible prose are usually rejected.

2. **Abstracts:** Abstracts are unequivocally the most important part of any paper. Many readers read only the abstract. Thus, the abstract should summarize all the information in the paper in approximately 150 words. Abstracts must be precise, to the point, and interesting. The abstract is not an introduction: it should be informative. The abstract must contain the background, aims, method, results, and conclusions—all in one paragraph. Needless to say, the abstract must be written imaginatively.

Avoid the stereotypical abstract styles that engineering journals often use. In legal affairs, the author is more or less going to talk about a story—about cases that happened. Present the abstract as a short and gripping story.

The following sample abstract contains no useful information and represents practices in abstract writing that authors must avoid:

The authors conducted a study on [topic]. The literature in the field was studied and a model was developed. The model was analyzed and results were obtained under different conditions. The findings demonstrate that new approaches should be introduced to [topic]. This increases our understanding of the [topic]. Conclusions are presented. This paper describes the methodology used. Practitioners are advised to adopt these new approaches.

3. **Conclusions:** The conclusions must be substantive and must highlight the major features and findings of the paper. It is not sufficient to say “it is important for the administrators to understand the law.” The authors must present details of the analysis, and where applicable, they should include a substantive summary. The author must remember that readers often read the conclusions first; if the conclusions are not informative, readers may not look at the remainder of the paper.
4. **Future Research:** The article must emphasize what is being done and what has been done or is expected. Readers are not interested in learning how or why some future research should or should not be conducted. The author should leave interpretation of future needs to the reader and other researchers. This interpretation is not to be confused with recommendations, which the *Journal* encourages. The authors should delineate any research limitation that is within the scope of the article and must explain all limitations in the body of the text. The author must not include a separate section on future research.
5. **Literature:** The need for the study must stand on its own merit. An absence of previous research does not justify research. For instance, the research might not be applicable, might not be interesting, or might be meaningless. Similarly, an abundance of research does not necessarily indicate that new research is not justified. For instance, previous researchers might have missed an important point, the scope or conditions might have been different, or the previous research might have focused on an entirely incorrect premise. Even a study that is exactly the same study as a previous study can be replicated and presented differently for emphasis or confirmation. That said, the literature review should assess the current state of knowledge and yield a basis for questions addressed in the paper.
6. **Works cited and Endnotes:** The legal section uses the *Chicago Manual of Style*, and therefore uses both endnotes and cited works cited. Endnotes can add a new

dimension to the study and can include useful comments that place the arguments in context. Authors are strongly encouraged to use endnotes to enhance their articles.

7. **List of Cases:** All manuscripts that cite court cases must have a List of Cases section before the references and endnotes. The complete citation must be written there. Cases mentioned under List of Cases must not be repeated in the References section.
8. **List of Statutes/ Legislation:** All manuscripts that cite state or federal statutes and legislation must include a List of Statutes/Legislation section following the List of Cases. The complete citation must be written there. The citation style might vary from country to country but must be complete and traceable in all respects. Statutes mentioned in the List of Statutes/Legislation section must not be repeated in the references.
9. The following sections appear under REFERENCES in this journal:

- Endnotes
- List of Cases
- List of Acts and Statutes
- Works Cited