

The Florida Bar Journal Writer's Guidelines

Purpose and General Approach: The primary purpose of columns is to educate or inform the reader on issues of substantive law and practical concern to lawyers. Analysis, opinion, and criticism of the present state of the law also are encouraged and should be clearly identified by sufficient legal authority on all sides of an issue to enable the reader to assess the validity of the opinion. When criticism is voiced, suggestions for reform should also be included. Criticism should be directed to issues only.

Submission Standards: Columns submitted for possible publication should be typed on 8 ½" by 11" paper, double-spaced with one-inch (1") margins. The maximum length of columns is 12 pages including endnotes. Only completed columns will be considered (no outlines or abstracts). Endnotes must be concise and placed at the end of the column. Upon first reference to a case or statute, the citation should be provided in the text. Columns may be submitted in Microsoft Word via e-mail.

Review and Timelines: Submissions will be reviewed by members of The Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board, who are appointed by the president of The Florida Bar. The Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board, which is composed of lawyers practicing various areas of law, has discretion over the acceptability of legal articles. The Bar Journal's staff is a liaison between authors and The Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board. Columns should be submitted directly to The Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section column editors. The Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board generally takes 60 to 90 days to offer its judgment on each submission. After a submission is approved, it is usually published in The Florida Bar Journal within six months. If this time frame is unacceptable, the author should provide his/her submission to another publication.

The deadlines for submission of potential column publications to The Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board for 2016-17 on behalf of The Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section are:

July 1, 2016 (for the September/October 2016 edition);
September 1, 2016 (for the November 2016 edition);
October 1, 2016 (for the December 2016 edition);
November 1, 2016 (for the January 2017 edition);
December 1, 2016 (for the February 2017 edition);
January 1, 2017 (for the March 2017 edition);
February 1, 2017 (for the April 2017 edition);
March 1, 2017 (for the May 2017 edition);
April 1, 2017 (for the June 2017 edition); and
May 1, 2017 (for the July/August 2017 edition).

Before any column publications are submitted to The Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board on behalf of The Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section, such columns should be submitted by the author(s) for review to the Co-Chairs of the Publications (Florida Bar Journal) Committee of The Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section not less than 30 days prior to the next submission deadline for column publications of The Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board to allow for sufficient time for the Publications (Florida Bar Journal) Committee to review and provide comments on the submission. The current Co-Chairs of the Publications (Florida Bar Journal) Committee of The

Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section are Jeff Goethe (jgoethe@barneswalker.com) for the Probate and Trust law side and Douglas Christy (dchristy@bplegal.com) for the Real Property law side. Any authors submitting a potential column publication also must submit a brief biography of themselves to accompany the column publication. The Publications (Florida Bar Journal) Committee of The Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section generally attempts to alternate submissions between Real Property law and Probate and Trust law topics. Therefore, any column publication submissions received by the Publications (Florida Bar Journal) Committee may not be submitted immediately for, or published in, the upcoming edition of The Florida Bar Journal to account for this alternating topic preference and goal. The Publications (Florida Bar Journal) Committee is always welcoming of early submissions of any column publications.

Publication Agreement: All authors are required to sign a publication agreement, which is posted on the Publications (Florida Bar Journal) Committee website, prior to publication.

Quality and Style: The board members approve submissions for publication in The Florida Bar Journal only if they are of publishable quality. A submission possesses “publishable quality” by combining various virtues of good legal writing, such as originality, significance of topic, thoroughness of analysis or exposition, clarity of discussion, practicality, novelty of topic or approach, sensible organization, and good style. A submission need not satisfy any set formula to be of publishable quality, and it is not necessarily publishable merely because it exhibits a single mark of excellence (e.g., novelty) in the extreme. Thus, even the form (i.e., the structure and style) of a submission may add to or detract from its message; form is content, and good style cannot be divorced from substance. Although the members of the editorial board recognize that publishable submissions ordinarily will undergo some editing, authors should take care to edit and polish their submissions before offering them. Submissions requiring substantial editing will be rejected or returned to the authors for revision.

Pending Proceedings; Authorial Involvement: Submissions by authors currently involved in pending proceedings on the topic of the submission or by authors whose firm is involved in such proceedings will not be published, except as follows: The editor may publish submissions on broad, common topics on which numerous proceedings often are pending, such as jurisdiction, as well as submissions specifically approved by the editorial board as part of a forum for conflicting sides of one or more issues in any pending proceedings. All primary authorities cited in submissions should be final, not pending appellate review. Upon request by the author, the executive committee of the board will review any submission relying heavily on nonfinal authorities to determine whether to publish it to illuminate one or more important issues despite the pendency of any proceedings on point. Prior to publication consideration, authors must disclose or disclaim their involvement in such pending proceedings.

Citations: Citations should be consistent with the Uniform System of Citation. Endnotes must be concise and placed at the end of the column. Excessive endnotes are discouraged.

Simultaneous Submission; Reprint: The Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board does not review submissions submitted simultaneously to other publications. Prior to publication consideration, authors must notify the editorial office if the submission or any version of it has ever been published or is pending publication in another periodical.