

Irish Jurist Publication Ethics

Introduction.

Following a review of its publication ethics the Irish Jurist has agreed a publication ethics and malpractice statement that is guided by the best practice guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). The statement seeks to guide all those actors currently involved in the publishing and editing of the journal and by so doing to promote the highest ethical standards. It has three principal components which focus on the duties of the editor, peer reviewers, and authors.

Duties of Editor

General. As the person chiefly responsible for deciding which articles are published and for overseeing the editorial process the editor has the duty of ensuring that manuscripts submitted for publication are evaluated fairly and on the basis of their scholarly content. In discharging this duty manuscripts are evaluated without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship or political philosophy of the authors. In all of this the editor and members of the editorial board recognize the importance of academic freedom and the freedom of authors to express their views.

Confidentiality. The editor and members of the editorial board are under a duty to maintain confidentiality in respect of submitted manuscripts and, in this regard, must not disclose any information to persons other than the authors, reviewers (including potential reviewers), editorial advisors, and the publisher.

Correction of Errors. Where it comes to the attention of the editor (including members of the editorial board) that there is an issue of accuracy in a published article, an undisclosed conflict of interest, or plagiarism the editor will notify the corresponding author and, along with the publisher, take what action is necessary to address the relevant issue. This can include the retraction and correction of articles and the publication of corrections and clarifications.

Duties of Peer Reviewers

General. The Irish Jurist fully recognizes the critical importance of peer review and the pivotal role which it plays in maintaining and enhancing intellectual standards and reputation. Peer review makes an invaluable contribution by way of assisting the editor in making decisions on whether to publish manuscripts and by facilitating the improvement of articles.

Competence. Reviewers should be qualified to evaluate the subject matter of the manuscripts they are asked to review. In the event that a reviewer feels insufficiently qualified to review a manuscript or who is unable to provide a review in timely fashion he or she should inform the editor in order that an alternative reviewer can be invited.

Confidentiality. Given the importance of confidentiality in the editorial process manuscripts that are sent out for review must be treated as confidential documents and must not be shown or discussed with others save at the discretion of the editor.

Objectivity. Peer review should be conducted objectively and the reviewer's observations expressed clearly and with supporting arguments. Personal criticism of authors should be avoided.

Identification of Sources. Reviewers should draw attention to relevant published work that has not been referred to by the author. In addition, they should draw attention to any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under review and any previously published work.

Privileged Information and Conflict of Interest. Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not be used for personal advantage. Reviewers should not engage in reviewing a manuscript where there is a conflict of interest such as one resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships and connections with authors.

Duties of Authors

Originality. Authors submitting manuscripts should warrant that they are the product of original research. Except in exceptional circumstances, previously published work will not be considered.

Acknowledgement of Sources. Authors must reference content as fully as possible and to substantiate their submissions by using credible and easily identifiable sources. It is important that the work of others referred to in a manuscript be properly cited or quoted.

Redundant or Concurrent Publication. An author should not in general publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. Parallel submission of the same manuscript to more than one journal is unacceptable.

Authorship. Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant scholarly contribution to a manuscript submitted for publication. In this regard all those who have made such a contribution should be listed as co-authors. Before a manuscript is accepted for publication all co-authors must sign off on the final version and agree to its publication. Those who have not made a significant contribution should not be included in the list of co-authors. Persons who have provided research assistance should be acknowledged.

Conflicts of Interest. Authors should disclose any financial or other substantive conflicts of interest that might reasonably be construed to have had an influence on the author's research that forms the subject matter of his or her manuscript. In addition all sources of financial support for the relevant research should be indicated.

Errors and Inaccuracies. Where an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in a manuscript that has been published in the Irish Jurist it is the duty of that author to notify the editor of this and to co-operate with the editor and publisher in the correction of the error or inaccuracy.

Paul O'Connor

Editor

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