

PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MALPRACTICE POLICY



NLIU LAW REVIEW

2025-26

The NLIU Law Review commits to upholding the highest standards of publication ethics in accordance with the COPE Core Practices. All participants in the publication process including editors, reviewers, and authors are expected to adhere strictly to these principles.

A. Editors

a. Fair Play and Editorial Independence-:

Editors must uphold impartiality and objectivity at all times ensuring manuscripts are evaluated solely on academic merit. Any secondary factors such as ethnicity, religion, gender, political beliefs, or institutional affiliation must have no bearing on editorial decisions. This guarantees fairness and the promotion of diverse scholarship.

b. Publication Decisions-:

Editors have the responsibility to reject submissions that violate legal standards related to defamation, libel, obscene or unlawful content, or plagiarism. The determination of plagiarism is made case-by-case by the Editorial Board. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to refuse publication based on author misconduct, including issues addressed under the author conduct section. If the Journal publishes an article criticising a previously published piece, the editors must provide the original author an opportunity to respond, subject to the Journal's review standards, to maintain dialogue and fairness.

c. Confidentiality-:

Editors shall maintain complete confidentiality of all manuscript content and ideas, sharing them only with the author(s), editorial team, reviewers, and publisher, and only with the author's consent beyond these groups.

d. Disclosure and Conflict of Interest-:

Editors must disclose any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from decisions where such conflicts exist or might be perceived. The Editor-in-Chief can reassign manuscripts if needed. Editors are prohibited from using unpublished material for their own research or personal benefit and submissions from editorial team members will not be considered for publication to avoid conflicts.

e. Addressing Ethical Concerns-:

The Editorial Board shall respond promptly to ethical queries, concerns, or allegations of misconduct. Anonymous reports are accepted via designated channels (i.e., Google Forms) and all ethical issues must be handled with responsibility and transparency.

f. Investigations-:

All reported acts of ethical misconduct will be fully investigated by the Editorial Board, regardless of publication date. If an Editorial Board member is involved, the Faculty Advisor will oversee the investigation. There is no time limitation for reporting misconduct. In cases of substantial plagiarism or repeated violations, the author's institution may be contacted. Confirmed breaches will result in formal corrections, clarifications, retractions, or apologies published in subsequent journal issues.

g. Digital Archiving and Open Access-:

Editors must ensure that published issues are securely archived digitally and that all content is freely accessible to uphold the Journal's commitment to open access, facilitating wide scholarly dissemination.

B. Authors**a. Authorship Criteria-:**

Authors must have:

- Made significant intellectual contributions to conception of the work;
- Participated in drafting or substantial revision of the manuscript;
- Approved the final manuscript version for publication; and
- Agreed to be accountable for the entire work's accuracy and integrity.

Only those meeting these criteria should be listed as authors; others should be acknowledged with their permission. The corresponding author must certify these details upon submission.

b. Author Conduct-:

The Journal reserves the right to reject submissions from authors involved in misconduct, including but not limited to violations of publication ethics, criminal convictions, ongoing legal or disciplinary proceedings, sexual harassment, bullying, or ragging. Authors must proactively disclose any such issues.

c. Concurrent Submissions and Text Recycling-:

Submissions must be original and exclusive. Manuscripts or substantial parts must not be under review or published elsewhere simultaneously or previously, in any language. Authors must disclose any prior publications or submissions of the material. Such text recycling (self-plagiarism) is unacceptable without explicit disclosure and justification.

d. Originality and Plagiarism-:

Authors affirm that their manuscript is original, properly cites all sources, and respects copyrights. Usage of unpublished third-party information requires prior written permission. Any plagiarism detected will result in immediate rejection and appropriate sanctions.

e. Conflict of Interest Disclosure-:

Authors must disclose all potential conflicts of interest, whether financial, personal, or professional, likely to bias their work or its review. Timely disclosure is mandatory to ensure transparency.

f. Correction of Fundamental Errors-:

Authors discovering significant errors in published work must notify the Journal immediately and assist with corrections.

Any request to add, remove, or rearrange the sequence of authors after submission must be approved by all authors with reasons, and such changes are subject to editorial discretion. If a change is requested post-publication, a correction or corrigendum may be issued, following COPE's recommended procedures.

C. Publishers

a. Handling Unethical Publishing-:

Upon receiving notification from the editor of unethical behavior, publishers shall cooperate promptly in amending the publication record with clarifications, corrections, expressions of concern, or retractions as appropriate.

b. Digital Archiving & Access-:

Publishers shall collaborate with editors to ensure secure preservation and open access to all journal content for academic accessibility and continuity.

D. Peer Reviewers

Reviewers' duties and responsibilities are detailed in the Journal's Peer Review Policy, emphasizing confidentiality, objectivity, and disclosure of conflicts.

E. Miscellaneous

- a. AI tools cannot be credited as authors or co-authors, as they lack accountability and cannot approve the final manuscript.
- b. Authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, integrity, originality, and ethical compliance of all content, including portions generated or assisted by AI.
- c. Authors must ensure lawful use and compliance with copyright, data privacy, and intellectual property rights.
- d. The Editorial Board has authority over ethical disputes and reserves the right to reject, retract, or refuse submissions violating this policy. The Board may amend this policy as necessary and will adjudicate unforeseen ethical issues referencing COPE guidelines and general principles of scholarly integrity.

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