INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Mission
Human Rights is the official publication of the American Bar Association’s Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities. The magazine has an international readership that includes many prominent figures in the arena of human rights and civil liberties. Published quarterly, the award-winning magazine circulates to approximately 5,000 IRR members, academic institutions, libraries, and other interested readers. The magazine provides information and analysis that will ultimately help leaders, scholars, and activists protect and expand individual rights. Recent issues have covered criminal justice and injustice, environmental justice, sexual identity and gender orientation, body rights and body, and the law of war.

Style
The writing style for Human Rights should be brisk and straightforward—more readable and informal than that in a law review article. The magazine’s readers demand a clear rendering of legal issues and are keenly interested in the law’s impact on social concerns. Readership includes lawyers from all areas of practice, as well as legal scholars with a sophisticated understanding of the law. Authors should carefully research and craft their work. Authors should consider the following style guidelines:

- Use in-text case citations only when necessary. Human Rights does not use footnotes or endnotes.
- Strive for an interesting opening and closing,
- Use the active voice rather than the passive voice,
- Use gender-neutral language,
- Avoid long quotations,
- Avoid surplus verbiage,
- Avoid using a long word when a short one will do,
- Avoid using a foreign phrase, scientific word, or jargon if a more common English equivalent exists,
- Avoid overworked figures of speech,
- Avoid overcapitalization, and

Please see back issues of the magazine at http://www.abanet.org/irr/hr/home.html.

Submission and Publication
The magazine publishes quarterly and focuses on pre-selected themes. Upcoming themes include civil rights, sex and the law, punishment, privacy, and free expression. The chair of the editorial board and the staff editor invite manuscripts on these topics as well as general theme suggestions. Authors should talk with the chair or the staff editor before
writing or submitting articles, however. This allows authors to tailor their pieces to the specific needs of the magazine.

Articles should be original. Simultaneous submission, although discouraged, should be clearly noted.

Feature articles generally run between 1,100 and 3,000 words. Introductions, sidebars, and columns generally run between 550 to 775 words. The staff editor will designate the ultimate page and word count for each article, sidebar, and so on. Authors should include short biographies for publication with articles. Biographies should range from a sentence to a paragraph.

Articles should be sent as Microsoft Word files to ladwigm@staff.abanet.org.

Upon receipt, articles are sent to a peer review board for examination. If the board accepts the article, the ABA editor incorporates the peer review comments and prepares the manuscript for publication. The editor retains the right to change titles, add subheads, select illustrations, and make deletions to conform to space limitations. Please note that all articles are subject to acceptance by the peer review board. Individual editorial board members cannot guarantee publication. Authors will review edited articles in final manuscript form. Deadline pressures make it impossible to submit final typeset proofs to authors.

Publication Agreements and Reprints
Authors are asked to sign a publication agreement that grants the ABA the exclusive right of first publication, the nonexclusive right to reprint, and the right to use the work in other ABA media—including electronic, print, and other. Apply for reprint permission online.

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