Submission Guidelines

Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

The Journal welcomes the submission of original articles and comments that are of interest to family law attorneys, judges, legislators and policy makers.

Please follow these guidelines when submitting an article for consideration:

- Manuscript must be double-spaced - Must be in MS Word format and as an attachment to your email
- Suggested length: 10,000-12,500 words using footnotes, not endnotes.
- Use The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation for footnotes. Footnotes using other citations formats, such as APA must be converted to bluebook form before submission.
- Use the standard outline format for law review articles using Roman Numerals for major headings and the Chicago Manual of Style as a style guide for text. Previously published articles are available at aaml.org and can be viewed as examples.

All articles must comply with the following **Standards for Publication:**

1. **Critical Analysis**

   Each article should reflect an informed understanding of the doctrines and theories used to support its thesis. The author should critically appraise (whether though syllogistic reasoning, policy analysis or other analytic techniques) the cases, doctrines, statutes or ideas developed. The piece should be devoid of reasoning fallacies, emotive language and inferential leaps. Each step of the reasoning process should be clearly explained.

2. **Authority**

   Each article should thoroughly discuss and synthesize all responsible authority pertaining to its thesis. Where there is responsible authority contra to the thesis asserted, the author should identify and distinguish that authority.

   Citations of law, wherever possible, should be to primary authority. Secondary authority, such as treatises or articles which cite to cases, is primary authority for purposes of independent analysis or policy discussion contained in the secondary authority, but not for propositions of law. Authors are encouraged to cite a selection of several representative cases (or other appropriate authorities) to support each point, rather than simply a single case or article. Because the Journal is a national publication it is important that support not be limited to cases from a single state or region.

   The Journal strongly encourages its authors to reach into interdisciplinary materials to find support for propositions. Since matrimonial law issues arise at the intersection of law and the social sciences, there is a wealth of data and literature directly relevant to the

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practicing matrimonial lawyer that can only be found by using the research tools of the social sciences (for instance, the Social Sciences Index, Infotrac, and numerous LEXIS-NEXIS databases). Assertions of propositions of fact or opinion in non-legal areas, such as psychological or sociological commentary, must meet the same authority standards as assertions of principles of law.

AUTHORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FULLY DOCUMENTING THE PROPOSITIONS STATED WITHIN THE ARTICLE. The Journal has a very small staff and therefore is unable to accept responsibility for obtaining necessary support. Our students do not have time to "create footnotes".

3. Originality

Thorough research is not a substitute for originality. Articles that are simply restatements of opinion and analysis that are printed elsewhere are not the sort of pieces the Journal will publish. Effective synthesis of authority identified through research or application of existing principles to new questions are appropriately original endeavors.

Conversely, creativity is not a substitute for thorough research. Articles must demonstrate a thorough research inquiry in order to establish that the insight is indeed creative and original. The article should add novel thought to the area, rather than merely rehash, reiterate, rearrange or recapitulate existing knowledge.

4. Plagiarism Caution

Plagiarism is presenting another's material as one's own, including using another's words, results, processes or ideas, in whole or in part, without giving appropriate credit. The use of material taken from any source—whether directly quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise adapted—must be attributed to that source.

The Journal's policy states: "Plagiarism is the intentional, knowing, or reckless use of another person's words, phrases, citations, ideas, arguments or organization (1) in a manner that improperly creates the impression that they originated with the writer or speaker or (2) otherwise without proper attribution."

Plagiarism also includes the submission of material generated by others. This may include artificial intelligence (AI) content generators.

5. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI platforms such as ChatGPT, Gemini and Copilot can be valuable tools when writing your article. However, there are risks associated with their use such as inaccuracy and bias, lack of attribution and plagiarism concerns. For those reasons authors may only use AI Technology as a companion to their writing process, not a replacement.

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6. **Deadlines**

It is essential that authors adhere to the specified deadlines. The publication schedule is designed to ta doke advantage of law school student assistance that is only available at certain times of the year. Requests for extensions in extraordinary situations must be made to the Executive Editor.

Please submit your manuscript to:
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