

Villanova International Law Society Blog (VILSB)

Article Guidelines

<https://www.vilsb.com/>

I. Purpose and Introduction

These Guidelines were developed by the Villanova International Law Society Blog (VILSB) to promote Blog consistency and provide writers with useful tips and rules to inform the writing and editing process.

VILSB follows the **latest edition of the Bluebook**. Writers and editors should first consult the Bluebook for rules on formatting, grammar, citations, and other technical and substantive aspects of legal writing.

Questions during the writing and editing process that cannot be resolved by the Bluebook will inevitably arise. Additionally, writers and editors may seek additional authority specifically tailored to the goals and style of the Blog. These Guidelines seek to address these issues and inform writing and editing decisions.

II. Interpretation of Article Guidelines

The Article Guidelines contain both discretionary and mandatory rules. Generally, a mandatory rule is indicated by the use of commanding language (e.g., “shall,” “must,” “do not”). All other rules are considered discretionary.

III. Blog Rules

- A. Blog Articles must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Length: At least 500 words, excluding footnotes (750+ preferred),
 - b. Font: Times New Roman,
 - c. Font Size: 12 pts.
 - d. Spacing: Double-spaced
 - e. AI: Articles must comply with VILSB AI Policy
- B. The Blog only publishes articles concerning an appropriate subject matter.
 - a. Articles must concern **legal** topics, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Legal trends
 - ii. Case law developments
 - iii. Developments in foreign affairs that have legal aspects or implications
 - iv. International developments that have legal aspects or implications
 - v. Ongoing or prospective international legal initiatives or undertakings
 - b. Articles must concern **international, transnational, or foreign** topics, including but, not limited to:
 - i. Global Politics/Policy/Affairs
 - ii. National Security/Foreign Policy
 - iii. International Development & Emerging Economies
 - iv. Private International/Transnational Litigation

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- v. Global Environmental Law/Policy
- vi. International Trade/Corporate Law
- vii. Any other area relevant to International or Transnational Law/Policy
- c. Note: We will not publish pieces discussing *solely* the domestic law of the United States with no international nexus.
- d. As an example of appropriate subject matter, past Blog topics include:
 - i. US-EU trade laws
 - ii. Global sports betting regulations
 - iii. US-Canada whiskey tariffs
 - iv. Withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger from the ICC
 - v. Legal approaches to Syrian chemical weapons
 - vi. Human rights violations in Tigray
 - vii. Piercing the corporate veil in international arbitration
 - viii. Threats posed by climate change to statehood of Pacific island nations
 - ix. For more examples, see <https://www.vilsb.com/posts>.
- C. The Blog follows the latest edition of [The Bluebook](#) (currently the 22nd edition).
 - a. Refer to The Bluebook for rules on citations, grammar, typeface, etc.
 - b. General citation conventions by media type: (this list is not exhaustive)
 - i. Case Law: *Party v. Party*, Volume Reporter First Page, Page Cite (Year)
 - 1. *Jesner v. Arab Bank, PLC*, 584 U.S. 241, 243–44 (2018).
 - 2. *Nevada v. Hall*, 440 U.S. 410, 412 (1979).
 - ii. News Articles: Name, *Title*, PERIODICAL (Month Day, Year, at Time), link
 - 1. Ex: Rebecca F. Elliot & Keith Bradsher, *As a New Oil Power, China Gains More Sway Over Energy Markets*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 17, 2026, at 9:43 ET), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/17/business/energy-environment/china-oil-iran-war.html>.
 - 2. Ex: Harold H. Koh & Beatrice A. Walton, *September 12th's Red Alert: How International Lawyers Should Answer AI Leaders' Wakeup Call*, JUST SEC. (Sept. 16, 2026), <https://www.justsecurity.org/157417/international-lawyers-answer-ai-leaders-wakeup-call/>.
 - iii. Law Review Articles: Name, *Title*, Volume PERIODICAL First Page, Cited Page (Year).
 - 1. Ex: Kevin E. Davis, *Legal Responses to Black Subordination, Global Perspectives*, 134 HARV. L. REV. 359, 361–62 (2021).
 - 2. Ex: Desirée Leclercq, *Workers' Empowerment as U.S. Trade Policy*, 64 COLUM. J. OF TRANSNAT'L L. 326, 326 (2026).
 - iv. Books: AUTHOR, *TITLE* Page Cite (Year).
 - 1. Ex: STEPHEN KING, *THE RUNNING MAN* 24 (1982).

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2. Ex: LISA G. LERMAN ET AL., ETHICAL PROBLEMS IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW 102 (7th ed. 2026).

v. Websites (especially front pages): WEBSITE, link (date and time last visited).

1. Ex: INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY IN HAITI, <https://www.ijdh.org/> (last visited Sept. 17, 2026, at 11:12 ET).
2. Ex: INTERPOL, CORRUPTION, <https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Corruption> (last visited Sept. 17, 2026, at 11:13 ET).

D. The Blog provides a forum for the publication of **formal** legal writing.

1. Authors must use formal language. Authors shall not use slang or contractions (e.g., do not use “isn’t” or “it’s” → use “is not” or “it is”).
2. Authors shall not refer to the first person in their writing.
 - a. Refer to yourself as “the Author”
 - i. For example, instead of “I intend to write another article,” use “the Author intends to write another article.”
 - b. Refer to your article as “the Article”
 - i. “This Article seeks to explain...”
3. Authors must follow formal grammatical conventions.
 - a. Do not end a sentence with a proposition.
 - i. For example, the following sentence is grammatically incorrect: *The Court did not know which party to side **with**.*
 - ii. Instead, the sentence should be: *The Court did not know with which party to side.*
 - b. You may use acronyms, but use the full name of the subject of the acronym in its first mention.
 - i. Ex: According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), this action may violate.... The WTO later noted
 - c. You may use last names as shorthand for an individual, but use the individual’s full name in its first mention.
 - i. Ex: On June 25, 2023, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken Secretary Blinken refused, stating,

E. By submitting an article to the Blog, Authors recognize that they will not receive compensation for their articles.

- a. The Blog is a non-profit student organization, run strictly and solely by Villanova Law student volunteers.

Please contact vilsb@outlook.com should you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

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Villanova University
International Law Society Blog

Joe Lisa

J.D. Candidate, Class of 2027

Editor-in-Chief, Villanova International Law Society Blog

jlisa02@law.villanova.edu

Dan LaSalle

J.D. Candidate, Class of 2028

Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Villanova International Law Society Blog

dlasal01@law.villanova.edu