

Welcome to LawTalkToday

The Student Voice for Global Legal Awareness

Lawtalktoday.co.uk



Introduction

Welcome! LawTalkToday is a student-led magazine with a global reach, connecting students from 52 universities from 16 jurisdictions (as it stands). We provide a platform for young legal minds to explore a wide range of key legal fields, including corporate and commercial law, finance, competition, artificial intelligence, ESG, regulatory issues, intellectual property, human rights, EU law, and international arbitration. With a focus on current trends and emerging topics, we offer insightful, accessible content for students and professionals alike, keeping you informed on the most pressing legal issues shaping the world today.

General Information

Platforms:

- **Website:** Lawtalktoday.co.uk
- **Social Media:** Instagram
- **Podcast:** Law Talk Today
- **Professional Network:** LinkedIn

Content Commitments:

- **Articles:**
 - Frequency: 1 article per month
 - Length: Approximately 300-500 words (maximum 800 words)
 - Style:
 - Define any key terms or legal jargon to ensure accessibility for general readers.
 - Include a "References and Further Reading" section at the end.
 - Add your name as the author on each submission.

Podcast Contributions:

- **Format:** Bi-weekly podcast episodes, approximately 15 minutes each.
- **Themes:** Each episode will focus on a specific theme. Example: *Trump's Electoral Victory and Its Impact on the Corporate World*.
- **Participants:**
 - One representative from each jurisdiction.
 - Potential inclusion of trainee solicitors or other legal professionals.

Code of Conduct

At LawTalkToday, we strive to create a supportive and professional environment for students interested in law to engage with legal news, develop their skills, and prepare for a successful legal career. To maintain this environment, all members must adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

1. Purpose of LawTalkToday

- LawTalkToday is a platform for writing articles, joining podcasts, and participating in workshops and competitions related to the legal field.
- This platform is **not** intended as a forum for political debate or personal opinions on sensitive matters.

2. Respectful Communication

- All members must engage respectfully with one another, fostering a positive and inclusive community.
- Hurtful comments, personal attacks, or any form of disrespect towards fellow members will not be tolerated.

3. Content Guidelines

- Articles or content must focus on legal topics and should not include controversial content, whether political, social, or religious. A delicate topic may potentially be written if handled carefully in an uncontroversial manner.
- LawTalkToday reserves the right to remove any content deemed inappropriate or against these guidelines.

4. Prohibited Behavior

Members may face **expulsion** from LawTalkToday if they:

1. Make sensitive or controversial comments.
2. Include offensive content in their articles.
3. Make hurtful comments or personal attacks toward other members.
4. Using gossip or another member's private life against them, to undermine their role or reputation, with self-interest or malicious intent.

5. Accountability and Enforcement

- Violations of this Code of Conduct will be addressed promptly and fairly.
- Depending on the severity of the violation, disciplinary actions may include content removal, warnings, or expulsion from LawTalkToday.

By participating in LawTalkToday, all members agree to uphold this Code of Conduct to ensure a constructive and respectful environment for all.

Teams

To ensure a consistent stream of publications every week, writers will be divided into four rotating teams. Writers may switch teams every month.

Publication Schedule

- **Team A:** *Corporate and Commercial Law + Finance*
Week 1 Topics:
 - Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A)
 - Private Equity
 - Financial Services
 - Specialist Sectors: Tax, Real Estate, Maritime, Aviation, Sports, Media & Entertainment
- **Team B:** *Human Rights, EU, International Law, and Public Law*
Week 2 Topics:
 - Human Rights
 - EU Law
 - International Law and Arbitration
 - Healthcare Law and Medical Negligence
 - Criminal Law
 - Public Law
- **Team C:** *Technology, Competition, and ESG*
Week 3 Topics:
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Cybersecurity
 - Competition Law and Antitrust
 - Energy and Renewables
 - Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Regulatory Matters
- **Team D:** *Corporate and Commercial Law + Intellectual Property (IP) Law*
Week 4 Topics:
 - Patent Law & IP
 - Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A)
 - Private Equity
 - Financial Services
 - Specialist Sectors: Tax, Real Estate, Maritime, Aviation, Sports, Media & Entertainment

Editing Process

Each publication will undergo a thorough editing process to ensure quality and consistency:

1. Team Leader: Conducts the initial edit.
2. Editor (Fact-Checking): Verifies accuracy of all claims, ensuring no controversial or incorrect information is included.
3. Editor 2 (Language & Flow): Focuses on grammar, language, and improving the text's flow without altering its intended meaning. *Note: Avoid over-reliance on AI tools.*

Schedule (January)

Times are in UKT

26-30/12 - Complete [sign-up form](#) for articles and join respective Whatsapp team chats **by 30/12 31/12**

- Team leaders discuss and confirm article topics with writers
- Weekly debrief writers selected

Team A + Week 1 debrief

- **3/1 by 23:59** – submit articles to team leader for editing
- 4/1 by 16:00 – team leader does light editing and sends to fact-checking editor
- 4/1 by 23:59 – fact-checking editor completes review and sends to final editor
- 5/1 by 12:00 – final editor sends final draft to media officers to publish
- 6/1 at 12:00 – media officers publish articles on their respective media

Team B + Week 2 debrief

- **10/1 by 23:59** – submit articles to team leader for editing
- 11/1 by 16:00 – team leader does light editing and sends to fact-checking editor
- 11/1 by 23:59 – fact-checking editor completes review and sends to final editor
- 12/1 by 12:00 – final editor sends final draft to media officers to publish
- 13/1 at 12:00 – media officers publish articles on their respective media

Podcast 1 – deadlines arranged by Paddy

- 17/1 - media officers publish

Team C + Week 3 debrief

- **17/1 by 23:59** – submit articles to team leader for editing
- 18/1 by 16:00 – team leader does light editing and sends to fact-checking editor
- 18/1 by 23:59 – fact-checking editor completes review and sends to final editor
- 19/1 by 12:00 – final editor sends final draft to media officers to publish
- 20/1 at 12:00 – media officers publish articles on their respective media

Team D + Week 4 debrief

- **24/1 by 23:59** – submit articles to team leader for editing
- 25/1 by 16:00 – team leader does light editing and sends to fact-checking editor
- 25/1 by 23:59 – fact-checking editor completes review and sends to final editor
- 26/1 by 12:00 – final editor sends final draft to media officers to publish
- 27/1 at 12:00 – media officers publish articles on their respective media

Podcast 2

- 31/1 - media officers publish

Every Wednesday: Legally Literate collaboration post

Every Friday: Legal Pulse collaboration post

Leadership roles

- Team leader and editor - rotational basis x4
 - Reviewing ideas for topics submitted by team members
 - Editing
 - Other initiatives within the team e.g. organising an interview, panel discussion, pairing members between 2 jurisdictions on a small research project
- University brand ambassador
 - Promote our project to your university
 - Recruit students from your university
- Media officer x2
- Communications and promotions officer
- Editor x4
- Fact-checking editor x4
- Competitions officer x1
- Translation team – translate articles written in other languages

If you have any suggestions for us, please let us know!

Style Guide (Based on AP Stylebook) - by Marie Flügel

Submission:

Before submitting your work, make sure the following information is included:

- Title and subheadings
- Your full name
- Your university and course
- References

Voice and tone:

Before writing:

- Consider purpose and audience - what knowledge may the reader have before reading your article and what may be new to them
- Consider your reader may come from a different jurisdiction/country to yours and therefore may not be familiar with some legal concepts that are common in your jurisdiction, but not in theirs
- Consider your readers are mainly students and their time is limited. Therefore, language must be clear and direct. Keep sentences short, interesting and impactful
- My work will not involve any plagiarism and ideas will not be copied without due credit
- I understand that my article may not be approved if it deals with sensitive issues inappropriately

Abbreviations and acronyms

Use:

- Title and subheadings: avoid where possible
- In article: for first use: spell out abbreviation/ acronym, then include the abbreviation/acronym in brackets behind it; use abbreviation/acronym when later referring to it

Example:

“The European Union (EU) has introduced a new regulation.....”; “..... the EU’s approach
....”

Courts (Example- look for official title online)

- European Court of Justice - ECJ

Countries (Examples – look for official title online)

- United Kingdom – UK
- United States – US

International Conventions (Examples- look for official title online)

- European Convention on Human Rights – ECHR

Organisations (Examples- look for official title online)

- European Union – EU
- North Atlantic Treaty Organisation – NATO

Capitalisation:

- Names
- Seasons only capitalised if used in proper name e.g. Winter Olympics; not when not used as name e.g. “In winter, it gets dark earlier.”
- Common nouns: only capitalised as part of a proper name
Example: river – not capitalised; Colorado River – capitalised
- Job descriptions never capitalised unless as part of formal title

Case names:

- In italics – *Cassis de Dijon*

Citations:

Dates:

- Always numerical (1 February, not 1st February)
- For day, month, year: 1 February 2020

Definitions:

- Aim: make article accessible to readers with different levels of awareness on the topic of your article
- In footnote, provide a brief definition of key concepts

Format:

- Word document
- Try to limit the length to 300 –500 words, max.800
- Include your sources with a link to the article (makes editing process easier)

Numbers:

Numerical:

- Numbers 10 and higher
- For plurals (eg 90s): add s but no apostrophe
- Exceptions:

Age	Date
Speed	Times
Highways	State roads
Addresses	Percentages
Dimensions	Temperatures
Dollars and cents	Millions and billions

Source: <https://writer.com/blog/a-comprehensive-guide-to-the-ap-style-of-writing/>

Spell out numbers:

- Numbers below 10
- Numbers at the beginning of a sentence, except for years

Time:

- use figures except for noon and midnight, use colon to separate hours from minutes

Example:

11 a.m.; 11:30 p.m.

Title/Subheadings**For American English:**

- All main words in capital letters
- Not in capital letters: articles, conjunctions (and, but, for), prepositions (at, by, from)

For British English:

- all main words in small letters

A guide to writing about sensitive topics – a guide to writers and editors by Marie Flügel

At LawTalkToday, we aim to cover current legal affairs. This means also covering topics that are highly debated and often politically and emotionally loaded. This guide aims to provide some helpful sources and guidance on how to approach a sensitive topic.

1. Research your topic well

Aim to get a well-rounded perspective of your topic before you start writing. Some issues you should understand include, but are not limited to:

- Historical context
- Current events
- Different perspectives

2. Recognise the diversity of your readership

We aim to address an international audience of people from different backgrounds. It is important to be sensitive to your reader's perspectives and present your views in a comprehensive and fact-based way.

3. Practice ethical journalism

Ethical journalism, defined by the *Society of Professional Journalists*, should be accurate and fair. Be “honest and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information”. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Taking responsibility for the accuracy of your work. This includes explaining why you have chosen to take sides on a controversial topic and being open to debate and criticism.
- Using original sources
- Considering sources' motives
- Providing access to your source material when relevant and appropriate
- Avoiding stereotyping

- Never deliberately distorting facts or context
- Never plagiarising
- Striking a balance between the reader's need for information and potential harm or discomfort
- Showing compassion for those affected by news coverage

<https://www.spj.org/pdf/spj-code-of-ethics.pdf>

4. Seek diverse perspectives

This aims to avoid reinforcing stereotypes and makes sure the article reflects a wide range of perspectives

5. Provide context

This helps your reader to understand the background of the topic and avoid confusion or misinformation.

6. Don't sugarcoat

Don't avoid or lessen the severity of sensitive topics. Sensitive topics should be presented as authentically and realistically as possible.

7. Fact checking

Make sure you validate your sources. Cross referencing can help.

Not sure where to start? Here are some sources to help check your sources

This is a useful website to help put the publisher into perspective:

(Can be a bit confusing at first but very helpful)

Media Bias/Fact Check Website (<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>) – credible site which provides information about bias and political alignment of news sources and how accurate their reporting is. The website also has a news section evaluating the accuracy of news reporting

Google Fact Check tools can help to verify your sources. You can use it to research a topic and receive fact-checks of different statements/ sources on the topic:

<https://toolbox.google.com/factcheck/explorer/search/list:recent:hl=de>

8. Use respectful language and visuals

Choose your words carefully! Avoid language that dehumanises, victimises, or marginalises. Avoid being too subjective about politically sensitive topics and using emotive language as this can manipulate your reader.

This website lists guides published by reputable sources on inclusive and sensitive language, including: a disability language style guide; gender identity and sexual orientation style guide; glossary of equality, diversity and inclusion; guide on writing about race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability:

<https://retrospectjournal.com/submissions-guide/writing-about-sensitive-topics/>

Here are a few examples to illustrate what to avoid:

Wrong presentation of politically sensitive topic:

“Israel **has committed** genocide” – Do write: “ICJ has held that Israel **may potentially be guilty** of genocide”.

Example of emotive language

“The **defenceless victims** were **attacked** in the **cover of night**”

Example of sensational language

“SICKO'S HUNT: Predator who told cops he was ‘too good looking for ID parade’ prowls street before raping three women in 3 hours”

(<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/32859200/serial-rapist-prowls-streets-victims/>)

9. Handling feedback and criticism

Part of publishing an article is being open to discussion and feedback. This also includes receiving constructive criticism. Be prepared to answer questions and avoid emotional language when engaging in debate. Use this as an opportunity to reflect on your work and your topic.

Source: <https://esoftskills.com/dm/writing-about-sensitive-topics-dos-and-donts/>

10. Other references:

<https://www.yellowbrick.co/blog/journalism/covering-sensitive-topics-in-journalism-expert-tips#>

<https://www.tckpublishing.com/sensitive-topics/>

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