

Blog Submission Guidelines

The Rule of Law Post welcomes submissions on topics related to ethics and the four pillars of national security: defense, diplomacy, development, and democratic governance. Readership includes U.S. and international policymakers, lawyers, legislators, civil society experts, academics, national security journalists, and the public.

Please send submissions to: cerl@global.upenn.edu. Submissions should be **full drafts** rather than idea pitches.

The model blog post for *The Rule of Law Post* consists of three components:

1) an original, thoughtful exploration of an interesting issue relevant to the rule of law and either national security or democratic governance;
2) a normative treatment of the subject matter paired with fair and balanced articulation of opposing views; and,
3) in-depth analytical argumentation laying out the author's position with a clear thesis statement in the first paragraph.

Editorial Guidelines

- Full draft blog posts should be submitted as a Word document (doc, .docx). PDFs or other formats will not be accepted.

- The blog post should be between 1,000 and 2,000 words.

- This is not an academic article. Write using short paragraphs and sub-headings when appropriate. Avoid jargon and acronyms. No contractions. The post should be as clear as possible for the reader, while still maintaining depth.

- The tone should be respectful.

- Blog posts should use hyperlinks rather than footnotes or any other citation style.

- Blog posts should conform to American English spellings and language conventions, with Merriam-Webster as the reference dictionary.

- Blog posts should avoid using "we," "our," "us," or "here" when referring to the U.S. They should use the Oxford comma and semicolons in complex lists. Periods and commas should be placed inside quotation marks, colons and semicolons outside. Please use one, not two spaces after the period ending a sentence.

- The blog post's title should be clear, concise, and sum up the core argument while grabbing the reader's attention. It should be no more than 110 characters total.

- At the end of your draft, please include a bio/byline of no more than 50 words. If you have a web bio or social media handle, please include the link(s).

- Potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed and noted to our editors. If you are writing about a legal matter you are or were involved in or a project or a report by you or your organization, that should be disclosed directly in the piece.

Review and Editing Process

- All blog post submissions are reviewed for quality and clarity. This review is conducted by in-house experts and, if needed, external subject matter experts.

- An accepted piece is subject to editing. Expect content and language clarification as well as structural edits from our editorial team.

- Once CERL finishes the editing process, we will send your article back to you for review. We ask that you please make corrections using tracked changes.

Plagiarism Policy

- Please be sure to cite (via hyperlinks) and appropriately attribute the work. *The Rule of Law Post* has a zero-tolerance policy with respect to plagiarism. We do not accept submissions written by or with the assistance of generative AI.

Republication Policy

- CERL does not republish works from other publications. Exceptions may be made on an ad hoc basis.