

PERADENIYA LAW JOURNAL

Terms of Reference (ToR)

1 About the Journal

The *Peradeniya Law Journal* (PLJ) is a publication of the Department of Law of the University of Peradeniya. It publishes high quality peer-reviewed submissions – ranging from articles and comments to case notes and book reviews – with the aim of contributing to the dissemination of critical and inter-disciplinary knowledge about the law, with a strong focus on social justice. The PLJ is based on the approach to legal education adopted by the Department of Law since its inception in 2009, which has been to provide a progressive and inter-disciplinary Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree with a strong social justice orientation, in the English medium. In providing such a degree, the objective of the Department has been to promote the study of law which is aimed at developing a socially sensitive individual, who views the law as an element central to the reformation of society and the promotion of social justice.

2 Editorial Panel

The editorial panel of the PLJ consists of the following:

- Editor-in-Chief
The Editor-in-Chief acts as the main advisor on the overall structure and publication of the Journal.
- Co-Editors
The co-editors share the tasks of both an articles-editor and a managing editor. One of the co-editors is responsible for aspects concerning the submissions made by authors to the Journal. This involves, *inter alia*, the issuing of the Call for Papers, getting the submissions reviewed by reviewers, and selection of articles for submission. The other co-editor is especially responsible for the publication of online/hardcopy versions of the Journal. The co-editors work under the general guidance of the Editor-in-Chief.
- Editorial Committee
This Committee consists of academics of the University of Peradeniya. The permanent staff members of the Department of Law and selected academics of other Departments/Faculties will form the membership of this Committee.
- Advisory Committee
The Advisory Committee consists of external experts in the field of law and related disciplines.

Duration: The initial appointment of members to any of the above mentioned editorial positions and committees will be valid for 3 years.

3 Nature and Scope of the Submissions

The PLJ will publish contributions which are well-researched and are of high quality. These contributions will mainly be in the form of: articles; shorter articles/comments; case notes; and book reviews.

The Journal seeks to ensure that its content will provide critical insights on the law. The perspectives offered by the authors will seek to promote an inter-disciplinary, social justice and reform-oriented approach to legal analysis.

Authors are encouraged to make their submissions clear and accessible to a wide range of readers, which includes legal academics, lawyers and judges as well as researchers, public officials, policy makers, diplomats and students.

4 Publication Policy

The PLJ will be a bi-annual publication.

The PLJ is published online. A limited number of hardcopies are also published together with the online version.

The administrative responsibilities relating to the publication of the PLJ are borne by the Department of Law.

5 Submission Instructions

5.1 Types of submissions

The PLJ welcomes the following types of submissions:

- Articles (6,000-8,000 words, excluding footnotes)
- Short Articles/Comments (3,000-4,000 words, including footnotes)
- Case Notes (2,000-3,000 words, including footnotes)
- Book Reviews (1,500 words, including footnotes)

The submissions should be original and should not be under consideration for publication in any other journal or forum. The submissions should not contain the name and affiliations of the author. The author's information should be included in the 'Declaration Form' (Annexure I).

In the case of articles and shorter articles/comments, authors should submit an abstract (of not more than 150 words) along with 3-5 keywords.

5.2 Peer-reviewing policy

All articles will be double-blind peer-reviewed.

5.3 Referencing style

Authors submitting articles should follow the referencing style set out in the ‘Peradeniya Law Citation Guide’ (Annexure II).

5.4 Plagiarism

Authors are strongly advised to refrain from any form of plagiarism. All sources must be accurately cited and attributed, as indicated in Annexure II.

5.5 Submissions

Submissions should be emailed to: peralawjournal@arts.pdn.ac.lk. All editorial correspondence should be directed to this email address.

5.6 Withdrawal of submissions

While the withdrawal of submissions is strongly discouraged in situations where the submission has been sent for peer-reviewing, the authors may write to the Editor-in-Chief seeking withdrawal of a submission under exceptional circumstances. Withdrawal will not be permitted when an article is accepted for publication after peer-review and has been sent to the printers. The Editorial Committee of the PLJ also reserves the right to reject submissions, especially those which are found to have been published in their entirety or substantially elsewhere or which are found to contain plagiarized material.

**Department of Law
Faculty of Arts
University of Peradeniya**