

TEXAS BAR JOURNAL

Editorial Submission Guidelines



The *Texas Bar Journal* is published monthly (except in August) and is mailed to every member of the State Bar of Texas. Articles pertaining to Texas law and other topics significant to Texas practitioners are welcomed. Every legal article submission is reviewed by the *Bar Journal* Board of Editors, which is composed of representatives from around the state, including three members of the State Bar Board of Directors. Acceptance or rejection of legal article submissions is at the sole discretion of the board of editors. Other features and columns are submitted to and reviewed by *Bar Journal* staff members.

All communication concerning article submission, review, and publication should be directed to *Bar Journal* staff members who act as liaisons between authors and the board.

Submissions must conform to the following guidelines:

LEGAL ARTICLES

Thoughtful and well-researched legal articles may focus on a range of subjects, including Supreme Court act reviews, case overviews, or emerging issues in the law.

- **Length:** Legal articles must be **1,500 words or less**, excluding endnotes.
- **Endnotes:** Endnotes should be limited, concise, and placed at the end of the article.
- **Form:** Only completed articles will be considered (no abstracts, outlines, or ideas). Each submission must be accompanied by an author form, which can be downloaded at texasbar.com/submissions. Submit articles (as a Word document; no PDFs) and forms to tbj@texasbar.com.
- **Content:** Not acceptable are articles from authors regarding their pending litigation, current political or religious issues, or personalities. While fair commentary on published opinions by a court may be made in a professional manner, no article criticizing sitting members of the judiciary by name will be published in the *Texas Bar Journal*. Articles that advocate legislation or a legislative position may be published as opinion pieces when approved by the State Bar Legislative Committee and/or Board of Directors.
- **Publication time frame:** Due to the large number of legal articles submitted to the *Bar Journal*, the board of editors generally takes 90 to 120 days to offer its judgment on each legal article. After an article has been approved, it is usually published in the *Bar Journal* within six to nine months. Authors will be made aware of acceptance or rejection. If an article is not published within a year after acceptance, the author should submit the article to another publication.

OTHER ARTICLES

Regular columns are devoted to shorter, results-oriented articles, such as technology reviews, small-firm tips, and client-focused pieces. Other non-legal features typically discuss news or general practice topics.

- **Length:** Reviews and columns should be no more than 600 words. Other non-legal features should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.
- **Form:** Completed articles are preferred, though abstracts, outlines,

or ideas will be considered. Submit by email (as a Word document; no PDFs) to tbj@texasbar.com.

- **Publication time frame:** Features and columns reviewed by *Bar Journal* staff members will typically take 30 days to review. Authors will be made aware of acceptance or rejection. If an article is approved, it is usually published in the *Bar Journal* within six to nine months.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Texas Bar Blog:** Some articles may be accepted for publication on the Texas Bar Blog. These may be more narrowly focused or longer than those approved for publication in the print journal.
- **Previously published articles:** Exceptional articles printed in other forums will be considered. The author is responsible for providing the name and date of previous publication and contact information for the original publisher.
- **Compensation:** No compensation is offered for any article.
- **Biographical information:** Each author of an accepted article will be asked to supply a brief one- to two-sentence bio and photograph.
- **Updates:** Authors of accepted articles are notified of the scheduled publication date by a *Bar Journal* staff member and are provided an opportunity to update the article as required. Authors may include additional information that may be considered for a sidebar.
- **Copyright:** The author of an article submitted to the *Bar Journal* retains the individual copyright to the article; the State Bar owns a copyright to the collected work in which the material appears. Submission of an article grants the State Bar a non-exclusive license for the bar's benefit to reproduce, sell, and otherwise distribute all or portions of the article under the author's name, individually or as part of collective and derivative works, through any media now known or that might be created.

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