



NLUA LAW REVIEW (NLUALR)

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ETHICS POLICY

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM

The *NLUA Law Review* (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Journal’) is a student-led, peer-reviewed academic journal. Upholding the quality and integrity of the works it publishes is the foremost concern of the Editorial Board across all stages, from submission, review, editing, and publication. All individuals involved with the Journal, whether as authors, reviewers, or editors, are expected to be familiar with and comply with the provisions of the Ethics Policy.

1. Editorial Responsibilities

The Editorial Board of the Journal is entrusted with upholding the highest ethical standards in the review, selection, and publication of submissions. The responsibilities outlined below guide the conduct of all editors associated with the Journal.

- **Editorial Integrity and Impartial Evaluation**

Editors shall ensure that every submission is assessed solely based on its scholarly quality and contribution to legal discourse. Decisions shall not be influenced by the author’s identity, including but not limited to race, religion, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, institutional association, or personal beliefs. Editorial discretion shall be exercised independently, free from any external or discriminatory influence.

- **Decision-Making and Grounds for Rejection**

Editors reserve the discretion to reject manuscripts that contravene legal norms, including those pertaining to defamation, obscenity, or other unlawful content. Additionally, any submission found to be plagiarised, in whole or in part, shall be rejected. The determination of plagiarism or academic dishonesty shall be made on a case-specific basis by the Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board retains overarching authority over the Journal’s content and may refuse to publish a manuscript based on author misconduct or breach of publication ethics

- **Confidentiality Protocol**

Editors are obligated to maintain strict confidentiality regarding all manuscripts under review. Information or ideas obtained from a submission shall not be disclosed to anyone beyond those directly involved in the editorial process, including the author(s), designated reviewers, and the publisher, without prior written consent of the author(s).

- **Conflicts of Interest and Ethical Disclosure**

Editors must proactively disclose any relationship or interest that could reasonably be seen to compromise their impartiality in handling a submission. In such instances, the Student Editor-in-Chief, in consultation with the Faculty Editorial Board, shall determine whether recusal is warranted and, if so, shall reassign the manuscript to another editor.

Editors must not exploit unpublished material from any submission for their personal or academic benefit without express permission from the author(s).

To uphold the integrity of the peer-review process, editorial team members are prohibited from submitting their work to the Journal during their term of office.

- **Handling Concerns and Complaints**

Editors are expected to address concerns regarding ethical misconduct or editorial malpractice diligently and in good faith. Such concerns may be communicated directly via email to nlualr@nluassam.ac.in. All complaints shall be treated seriously and investigated in accordance with procedural fairness.

- **Inquiry into Misconduct**

Any allegation of ethical breach or academic misconduct, regardless of the time of publication, will be thoroughly investigated by the current Editorial Board. Where the matter concerns an existing editorial board member, the investigation shall be conducted under the supervision of the Journal's Faculty Advisor to ensure impartiality.

In cases involving severe academic misconduct or serial violations (such as repeated instances of plagiarism), the Editorial Board may notify the author's institutional affiliation, in accordance with ethical best practices.

▪ **Archiving and Public Access**

Editors shall ensure that all issues of the Journal are preserved in a reliable digital format to guarantee long-term access. The Journal shall remain open-access and freely available to the public, either through institutional partnerships or via its own maintained archive, in line with the Journal's commitment to free and equitable access to legal scholarship.

2. Responsibilities of Authors

All individuals listed as authors in a submission to the *NLUA Law Review* are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. The following principles shall govern authorship and related conduct.

▪ **Authorship Criteria and Attribution**

An individual shall be named as an author only if they have made a significant intellectual contribution to the manuscript. This includes:

- Conception of the core idea or framework of the article;
- Active involvement in drafting the manuscript and revising it substantively;
- Granting approval for the final version intended for publication; and
- Accepting accountability for the accuracy and ethical soundness of the entire content.

The Journal encourages collaborative work and supports co-authorship. However, only those individuals who meet **all** the above criteria shall be named as authors.

It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to secure **written consent** from every individual who is acknowledged. In the absence of such written consent, the Journal reserves the right to omit the acknowledgement.

Post-submission, if an author seeks to revise the list of contributors, whether by adding or removing names, they must submit a written explanation and a signed statement of agreement from all concerned individuals. The Journal does not intervene in disputes regarding authorship attribution and disclaims any responsibility for resolving such matters.

Authors affirm, by submitting their work, that it does not violate copyright or any proprietary rights and that it contains no content that is defamatory, obscene, or otherwise illegal. In the event of any legal challenge arising from the published work, authors bear full and exclusive responsibility.

▪ **Prohibition on Simultaneous Submissions and Prior Publication**

The manuscript or any variation of the manuscript submitted to the Journal shall not be simultaneously submitted elsewhere, nor shall it be submitted to the Journal if it has been accepted or submitted elsewhere.

In the event that the manuscript, or any substantially similar version thereof, has been previously published or accepted elsewhere—whether in the same or a different language—the author(s) must disclose this information during the submission process or as soon as such facts become known. Full details of prior or concurrent publications must be provided, and the Editorial Board may request additional information to assess the extent of overlap.

▪ **Originality and Academic Honesty**

Authors are required to ensure that their submissions are entirely original and do not contain plagiarised content or materials that infringe upon the rights of third parties.

All sources must be acknowledged accurately in accordance with the Journal's citation guidelines. Any information obtained through informal or personal communication, including interviews or conversations, may only be included

with the express, written consent of the party concerned. Approval of the IRB or Ethics Committee involving research on vulnerable groups is mandated.

Plagiarism, in any form, constitutes a serious breach of ethics and shall result in immediate rejection of the manuscript or retraction if discovered post-publication.

- **Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

Authors must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, financial, institutional, personal, or otherwise, that might be perceived to influence the substance of their work or compromise the integrity of the review process.

Potential conflicts include but are not limited to personal or professional association with an editor of the Journal, receipt of grants or funding, employment relationships, consultancies, litigation involvement, or paid expert testimony.

Disclosures must be made at the earliest possible stage, preferably at the time of submission.

- **Correction of Errors Post-Publication**

If an author becomes aware of a significant error or oversight in their published work, it is their responsibility to immediately inform the Editorial Board and collaborate in issuing appropriate corrections.

In cases where such errors are independently brought to the Journal's attention, the author will be provided an opportunity to respond or justify the published content. If the author fails to satisfactorily explain or correct the issue, the Journal shall take corrective action, the form of which erratum, corrigendum, retraction, or public notice shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Editorial Board.

3. Responsibilities of the Publisher

The publisher of the *NLUA Law Review* plays a critical role in maintaining the journal's academic integrity, accessibility, and long-term preservation. The following obligations are expected to be fulfilled:

▪ Addressing Unethical Conduct in Publishing

In cases where unethical conduct or academic malpractice is established and brought to the attention of the editors, the publisher shall act in a timely and appropriate manner, following the guidance and decisions of the editorial board.

Corrective measures may include, but are not limited to, the publication of corrections, clarifications, statements of concern, apologies, or any other relevant notices. In cases of serious misconduct or ethical breaches, the publisher may also retract the affected article if it has already been published.

Furthermore, the publisher shall extend reasonable cooperation to the editorial team in preventing future publications by authors who have been found to have committed serious ethical violations. This includes assisting in identifying affected manuscripts and ensuring such works are not published.

▪ Archiving and Ensuring Open Access

The publisher shall collaborate with the editorial board to safeguard the permanent accessibility of all issues of the *NLUA Law Review*. This involves:

- Ensuring that all published content is securely archived and preserved in a reliable digital format;
- Supporting the Journal's commitment to open access by making all content freely available to the public;
- Facilitating partnerships with academic or archival institutions, or developing and maintaining an independent digital repository, to ensure seamless public access to the Journal's material.

4. Enforcement and Amendments

The authority to interpret and apply this Ethics and Publication Policy shall rest exclusively with the Editorial Board of the *NLUA Law Review*. The Board shall be empowered to determine whether a violation of the foregoing guidelines has occurred, and its decision in such matters shall be final and binding.

Where any breach of these standards is established, the Editorial Board reserves the right to:

- Reject or retract the concerned submission;
- Issue corrections, clarifications, or other public notices as necessary;
- Decline to consider future submissions from the author(s) involved; and
- Take any other action deemed appropriate to uphold the integrity of the Journal.

The Editorial Board also retains the discretion to revise or update this Ethics and Malpractice Policy from time to time, in accordance with evolving academic standards and best practices in scholarly publishing.