

**American Bar Association
Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources**

***TRENDS*
Author Guidelines**

Audience: The American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources distributes *Trends* electronically to its Section members at ambar.org/SEERTrends. Access to *Trends* articles is also available on a limited basis to non-Section members, including through Westlaw. ABA staff will provide you with a pdf version of your article after publication. *Trends*’ audience consists of practicing lawyers and, to a lesser extent, law professors and students.

Deadlines and Editing Process: Members of the *Trends* editorial board serve as article editors. The editor assigned to your article will provide the deadline for your draft article, generally seven to eight weeks before publication. After receiving your draft, the editor will send you edits for your approval (although you remain responsible for the article’s accuracy and completeness). Subsequently, ABA staff will style-edit the article, and the *Trends* editor-in-chief may propose additional edits. Edits from the editor-in-chief or from the Section’s editorial assistant are often intended to conform the article to ABA and/or SEER guidelines, and we strongly encourage authors to accept such edits. If you believe they make the article inaccurate, we urge you to discuss your concerns with your Board editor. Please promptly review and return final, clean copy to your editor at each step of this editing process. Meeting the initial submission deadline and responding promptly regarding suggested edits is essential to *Trends*’ timely publication. Please let your assigned editor know immediately if you cannot meet a deadline.

Topics: Typically, the *Trends* editorial board suggests topics and solicits authors directly, but it also accepts unsolicited article proposals. All articles should provide information of interest to practitioners in our field and should be written in an objective (non-editorial) manner, or at least, in a manner that fairly and equally presents opposing views. The editorial policy can be found [here](#). To distinguish *Trends* from other publications, we prefer articles that do more than simply summarize a recent development. Articles should provide a succinct legal analysis with observations regarding practical implications, or provide helpful practice tips that will be useful to readers.

Titles: Choose a short, catchy title for your article that, to the extent possible, indicates what practical benefit a potential reader will gain from reading it.

Lead-in: Include in your draft a separate lead-in sentence of 100 to 180 characters (including spaces) that describes the article’s content; it will be used to promote the article. Your assigned editor or the *Trends* editor-in-chief may suggest edits to your title or lead-in.

Summary Points: With the implementation of the new SEER website, all articles will be required to include 2-4 summary points in addition to the lead-in. Please write, at minimum, two short sentences summarizing your article with bullet points.

Word Count: An article of 750 to 1,000 words is preferred (1,100 words maximum).

Format and Style: Include three or four headers to break up the article visually (avoid generic headers such as Introduction/Background/Conclusion). Feel free to use bullets and lists. Avoid acronyms and abbreviations except for terms that you use frequently or are commonly known, and for every acronym, spell out the term on first use. Please use Times New Roman in 12pt font.

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Citations: For all primary sources and substantive information (e.g., statistics, quantitative statements), you must include in-line citations—or enough information in the text to allow a reader to find the source (e.g., “In an April 2022 survey of public-water systems, EPA concluded that”). Do not use hyperlinks in lieu of citations for key sources or authorities.

Hyperlinks: Hyperlinks can be helpful resources in addition to in-text citations. Where possible, please hyperlink key sources and authorities, as well as online sources that might be difficult to locate or especially interesting to readers. Feel free to include hyperlinks for additional, less relevant sources for which you do not provide formal citations, but do not go overboard and be mindful of the potential for hyperlinks to no longer work.

Hyperlinks to the following categories of websites are preferred:

- a. State and federal court websites, or other free, government-maintained websites. If such a hyperlink is not available, you may cite to Lexis or Westlaw without a hyperlink.
- b. Law school websites.
- c. Websites of third parties that contain free access to studies, surveys, and other reports.

Graphics: You may propose graphics that are substantively useful for your article, subject to final approval by the editor-in-chief and ABA staff. Please ensure the proposed image is larger than 1500 pixels wide. The preferred image size is 2560x1440 pixels.

Author Biography: Provide your biography of one or two sentences to accompany your article. Include your full name, title, professional affiliation (e.g., law firm name), area of practice, and any current positions of leadership with the Section. We cannot publish articles that do not disclose your current professional affiliation(s). Please also [update your My ABA profile](#) with a high-resolution headshot, your updated biography, and any additional information you would like displayed in your author profile.

Co-Authors: Please inform your editor as soon as possible of any co-author(s) for your article, and, if there are co-authors, please identify the lead author.

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To Submit/For Help: If you have questions about these guidelines or your article, please contact your assigned editor. If you would like to propose an article for publication or if you have general questions regarding *Trends*, please email Thomas Lorenzen at tlorenzen@crowell.com, Chayla Witherspoon at chayla.witherspoon@fmglaw.com, Norm Dupont at ndupont@awattorneys.com, and Victor Wu at victorywu@stanford.edu.

Sample Articles: For sample articles, including lead-ins, see the [latest issue of Trends](#).