
# Code of Ethics

This Code of Ethics is adopted in conformity with the COPE Guidelines and Core Practices.

## Duties of the Editorial Board (Editors and Managing Editors)


The Editors of the MarSafeLaw Journal approve manuscripts submitted for publication solely on the basis of their scientific content without considering in any way the author’s race, sex, sexual orientation, religious faith, ethnic origin, citizenship, political orientation or any other personal characteristics.

The manuscripts are published according to the editorial policies, which comply with the existing law concerning defamation, copyright and plagiarism.

The MarSafeLaw Journal enhances the diffusion and valorisation of research through its open access publication policy.

The Editorial Board encourages the submission of original manuscripts of high scientific quality.

The MarSafeLaw Journal promotes the adoption of the highest editorial standards on an international, European and national level and verify their application. The manuscripts published in the MarSafeLaw Journal must be unpublished and not under consideration with any other journals. All the manuscripts published must follow the highest editorial and linguistic standards, and must be edited in compliance with the MarSafeLaw Journal’s Authors Guidelines. The Editorial Board is committed to publishing corrections of major mistakes (errata corrigé) in previously published manuscripts.

The MarSafeLaw Journal ensures that each manuscript is reviewed by the Editors and by external reviewers. For the external peer review, the MarSafeLaw Journal follows a system of double-blind peer review: the Editorial Board relies on members of the Advisory Board or on other renowned experts in the fields covered by the MarSafeLaw Journal, who remain anonymous to the author; the author’s
name and any other identifying information, in turn, is removed from the manuscript under review. A list of the reviewers is archived by the Editors.

The Editors are solely responsible for the decision to publish or reject a manuscript submitted by an author.

The Editors reject any manuscript involving plagiarism, copyright violations, fraud, misconduct or a conflict of interest by the author. In compliance with the COPE Guidelines and Core Practices, the Editorial Board takes all necessary measures, including the publication of erratum (mistakes that occurred during the publication process), corrigendum (authors’ mistakes) or, for the most serious faults, the withdrawal of a previously published manuscript. Communications concerning the peer review and publication processes are sent only to the authors and the reviewers.

Members of the Editorial Board must not disclose any information concerning a manuscript submitted for publication to any persons other than the author, the reviewers, and the other members of the Editorial Board. Unpublished manuscripts and/or material contained in a manuscript must not be used for research or other purposes by any member of the Editorial Board without the express written consent of the author.

The MarSafeLaw Journal makes all major donors and funders of the journal public.

**Reviewers’ duties**

During the peer review process, the reviewers are tasked with assisting the Editors in the evaluation of the manuscripts submitted to the MarSafeLaw Journal. The reviewers must highlight potential improvements of submitted manuscripts.

If selected reviewers believe that they are unable to carry out the assigned task within the assigned timeframe, they must report their decision to the Editorial Board. In doing so, they formally renounce their involvement in the peer review process. The peer review process must be conducted objectively, and its outcome must be based on clear and documented arguments. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate.

The reviewers must not accept any manuscript in relation to which they have a conflict of interest (e.g. competition, cooperation, or any form of relationship with the authors or with companies and institutions linked in any way with the topic of the manuscript), even if the Editorial Board has not been able to verify the existence of such conflicts on its part.

The manuscripts under peer review must not be discussed or shared with anybody unless the reviewer has been authorised to do so by the Editorial Board. The reviewers must notify the Editorial Board if they recognise a substantial similarity or overlap between the reviewed manuscript and any other published article, work or document of which they are aware.

**Authors’ duties**

The author guarantees that the submitted manuscript is original and unpublished. Manuscripts under consideration by the MarSafeLaw Journal must not be under evaluation for publication with any other journal. Further, the author must accept the procedure and outcome of the peer review process. When a manuscript is accepted for publication, the author signs a Statement of Authorship confirming that he/she is the sole author/s of this contribution; that he/she has documented all sources and material
used; and that all quotations from published and unpublished sources are clearly indicated and acknowledged. The author also confirms that he/she has submitted the manuscript for first publication in the MarSafeLaw Journal, that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere and that it has not already been published elsewhere in either print or electronic form. The author also confirms his/her understanding that the manuscript may be subjected to an electronic plagiarism check using text-matching software.

At the time the manuscript is submitted, the author is obliged to direct the Editorial Board to any conflict of interest which may have influenced his or her work. The author must also mention any donors and funding received for researching and writing the manuscript.

The author has the duty to explicitly and correctly reference all publications which have been used for writing his/her manuscript. The author must correctly cite or paraphrase the works or words of any other person used in the submitted manuscript. The author has the duty to obtain the authorisation to publish any images, tables, graphs or any other content previously published, according to existing copyright law. Fraudulently or voluntarily uncorrected quotations or statements made by the author amount to unethical and unacceptable conduct.

The author guarantees the truthfulness of the content submitted during the research process and the objectivity of his/her interpretation. All persons who have effectively participated in any way and in any part of the manuscript, who have approved the final version, and who have agreed on the publication of the manuscript, must be mentioned and considered as co-authors. Should the author become aware of any significant mistake or inaccuracies within the published manuscript, he/she has a duty to communicate it to the Editorial Board, and to submit an errata corrige to be published by the MarSafeLaw Journal.

**Conflicts of interests**

A conflict of interest exists when an author, a reviewer, or a member of the Editorial Board or the Advisory Board shares private interests, which might inappropriately influence his/her behaviour. It is a responsibility of the Editorial Board to handle in the best possible way any potential conflict of interest.