

PERSPECTIVE

The Daily Journal welcomes submissions for its Perspective section. Anyone interested in submitting an article, or discussing a possible idea, should contact the legal editor, Sharon Liang, by e-mail at sharon_liang@dailyjournal.com.

It's a good idea to e-mail as soon as you know you want to write about a specific issue. We take a limited number of columns on specific matters, and seek to find columns to represent all sides of the issue.

We only publish original content. Columns previously posted on law firm and non-profit Web sites or personal blogs are excluded. However, we will not publish articles previously posted on mainstream online outlets.

Columns can be traditional opinion pieces in which the author takes an affirmative stand on a particular issue or they can be more analysis based. The pieces should argue a point or explain the law in a way that would interest most practitioners. They should examine the issue within a larger context.

All columns should run between 900 and 1,400 words.

We also feature on these pages first-person stories, historical and humor pieces, and book excerpts and book reviews. Those pieces run 1,000 words.

First-time writers must submit a mug shot of themselves for publication that has a resolution of at least 300 dpi. (If you don't have one, ask the legal editor about being photographed by a Daily Journal photographer.)

From time to time, columns will be selected for showcasing on the front page. This is completely at the editors' discretion. We look for the front-page columns that are timely, well reasoned and researched.

You cannot write about a matter in which you are directly involved.

We seek to represent a wide variety of subject matters and styles on these pages. Remember, the Daily Journal has a broad audience of legal practitioners and newsmakers. While we welcome pieces on specific issues of concern to one practice area, we will edit them to make them more readable to the larger audience.

Read on for writing tips...

Things to remember for Perspective pieces:

These pieces should read like what they are: newspaper columns. They *should not read like a legal brief or memo*, meaning that devices attorneys often employ in their writing, such as footnotes, Id cites, long block quotes, bulleted or numbered items, topic or paragraph headings, etc. are inappropriate.

The authors should not summarize what they're going to write about or say, they should just go ahead and say it (Sentences such as "In this piece, I will discuss..." will always be taken out). Self-references are also discouraged ("My firm has been a leader in this area").

Use citations sparingly. Unlike a conventional legal brief or law review article, cites should be limited to areas where they articulate the point being presented in the article, not where they merely confirm it.

Do not abbreviate the words within case or statute names.

Strive for brevity and simplicity.

Contributors are welcome to write on sophisticated topics but should always do so in a way non-specialist attorneys can understand.

Submissions should all include a short one- or two-sentence bio that says where the practitioner works, his or her area of specialty, and the city where he or she is located.

The title or headline of the article is always written by our copy desk, in accordance with standard newspaper practice. You can suggest a title, but there is no guarantee it will be used, and there is no pre-approval of headlines.

The Daily Journal has its own journalistic style, based on the AP Style Guide. Thus, when your article is edited, a number of stylistic changes will likely be made to conform your article to this style.

If you have any further questions, please direct them via e-mail to the legal editor.