Vienna Law Review – Code of Ethics

The *Vienna Law Review* is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and academic excellence in legal scholarship. This statement outlines the ethical principles, responsibilities, and procedures applicable to **authors**, **editors**, and **peer reviewers**, and describes the journal's approach to managing and preventing **misconduct**.

I. General Principles

The *Vienna Law Review* adheres to the principles of transparency and best practice in scholarly publishing as outlined by the **Committee on Publication Ethics** **(COPE)**. All parties involved in the publication process are expected to act in accordance with the principles of **honesty, fairness, confidentiality, and accountability**.

II. Responsibilities of Authors

a. Authors must:

- Submit only **original work**, free from plagiarism or data falsification.
- Ensure that the manuscript has **not been published or submitted elsewhere**.
- Disclose all **sources and references** accurately in footnotes.
- Acknowledge all **contributions and funding sources** appropriately.
- Declare any **conflicts of interest** at submission.
- Cooperate during the peer review and revision process in **good faith**.
- Ensure that research involving human subjects complies with **ethical and legal standards** (e.g. informed consent, data protection).

By submitting a manuscript, the author confirms compliance with these standards and accepts editorial decisions made in accordance with the journal's peer review policies.

b. Misconduct by Authors Includes:

- Plagiarism (including self-plagiarism without disclosure)
- Duplicate submission
- Falsification or fabrication of data or sources
- Undisclosed conflicts of interest
- Citation manipulation
- Misuse of Artificial Intelligence

c. Consequences

If misconduct is identified, the journal reserves the right to:

- Reject the manuscript or retract the publication
- Inform the author's institution or funding body
- Prohibit future submissions for a defined period

Authors have the submit official complaints or appeals via email (ars.iuris@univie.ac.at) which will then be reviewed by the Editorial Board.

III. Artificial Intelligence

Misuse or abuse of artificial intelligence (AI) is not permissible. The authorship and the responsibility for the article and its contents remains with the human.

IV. Responsibilities of Editors

a. Editors must:

- Ensure **impartial and fair** peer review of submissions.
- Maintain **confidentiality** throughout the editorial and review process.
- Declare and manage **conflicts of interest**.
- Uphold the academic standards of the journal and reject any form of **discrimination** or **undue influence**.
- Respond promptly and transparently to any **complaints or ethical concerns** raised by authors, reviewers, or readers.

b. Editors will not:

- Manipulate citations to boost journal metrics
- Engage in or tolerate unethical conduct
- Accept papers where impartiality is compromised

V. Responsibilities of Reviewers

a. Reviewers must:

- Evaluate submissions **objectively, constructively, and confidentially**.
- Declare any **conflicts of interest** and recuse themselves if necessary.
- Avoid **using or sharing** unpublished material for personal gain.
- Provide **clear, respectful, and evidence-based feedback**.
- Report suspected misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, duplicate submission) to the editors.

b. Reviewers may not:

- Contact authors directly
- Request citations of their own work unless justified
- Breach confidentiality under any circumstances

VI. Retractions, Corrections, and Post-Publication Dialogue

We are committed to maintaining the integrity of the scholarly record. The journal will:

- Issue **corrections**, **retractions**, or **expressions of concern** when necessary
- Allow post-publication **comments or rebuttals** to be submitted to the editorial board

VII. Data Access and Archiving

Authors may be asked to provide **raw data**, anonymised interview transcripts, or similar documentation to verify findings. The journal ensures the long-term **digital preservation** of its content via the RDB Database.