

# ***The ATA Journal of Legal Tax Research***

## **Editorial Policy**

*The ATA Journal of Legal Tax Research (JLTR)*, a double-blind peer-reviewed journal, publishes creative and innovative studies that employ legal research methodologies that logically and clearly:

- Identify, describe, and illuminate important current tax issues including the history, development, and congressional intent of specific provisions
- Propose improvements in U.S., state and local, or foreign tax systems, and unique solutions to tax or fiscal problems
- Critically analyze proposed or recent tax law changes from both a technical and a policy perspective
- Discuss improvements in tax compliance, tax complexity, or tax policy
- Provide critical discussions for strategically structuring transactions, considering tax and non-tax ramifications
- Critically analyze recent or proposed legislative or regulatory changes
- Critically analyze similarities and differences between tax accounting and financial accounting issues
- Critically analyze similarities and differences between U.S. and other tax regimes

Legal tax research articles in all areas are appropriate for the journal, including state and local taxation, international taxation, estate and gift tax law, and federal income taxation. Manuscripts analyzing tax issue of countries other than the U.S., particularly if it includes a comparison to U.S. tax law, are also encouraged.

*JLTR* seeks the submission of unpublished manuscripts not under consideration by another journal or publisher. Each manuscript will be published electronically as soon as the Editor, based on the advice from the reviewers, determines that the manuscript meets the objectives and standards set forth by the American Taxation Association and *JLTR*'s editorial board.

### **SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS**

The following guidelines should be followed for submitting manuscripts:

1. Manuscripts are submitted using the Manuscript Submission and Peer Review System, at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jltr>. This site as well as the journal homepage (<https://aaahq.org/Research/Journals/The-ATA-Journal-of-Legal-Tax-Research>) contains detailed instructions regarding the preparation of files for submission. To ensure anonymous review, the title page is submitted as a separate file from the manuscript text. All authors are notified by email when a paper has been successfully submitted.
2. Submitting authors are required to enter a valid ORCID during submission. All co-authors will be asked to confirm authorship. Co-authors are encouraged to provide an ORCID.
3. Manuscripts under consideration by another journal or other publisher should not be submitted. The submitting author will be asked to verify this during the web-based submission process.
4. For manuscripts reporting on field surveys or experiments: Please ensure that reporting of descriptive statistics and of models and tests of hypotheses is complete. For experimental papers, this would generally include: (1) reporting standard deviation and cell sizes in any tables of means, (2) including degrees of freedom along with any reported test statistics that have degrees of freedom, whether in the

tables, footnotes, or text, and (3) ensuring ANOVA, MANOVA, ANCOVA, etc., tables are complete, including all estimated terms, including the error term, along with the associated degrees of freedom. Note that if test statistics and associated degrees of freedom are reported in the tables, authors need not repeat this material in the text. For example, authors could provide only the p-values for effects (tests) of interest in the text, if desired. If the additional documentation (e.g., questionnaire, case, interview schedule) is sent as a separate file, then all information that might identify the author(s) must be deleted from the instrument.

5. Manuscripts that report surveys, interviews, qualitative studies, or experiments utilizing human subjects must verify approval by the institution at which the experiment took place. *This includes manuscripts reporting quantitative data or testing the use of cases or instructional resources (e.g. surveys, interviews or quotes from students, faculty or others about the materials being tested).* Notation of approval should be made within the manuscript. In addition, the submitting author will be asked to verify approval during the web-based submission process. Before submission, please refer to the disclosure on human subject research below in Additional Information.
6. Authors are responsible for recognizing and disclosing any financial or non-financial conflicts of interest that could be perceived to bias their work. Conflict of interest disclosures include, but are not limited to, grants or research funding, employment, affiliations, patents, inventions, honoraria, stock options/ownership, royalties, and consultancies. Authors must (1) indicate whether there are conflicts of interest in the cover letter, (2) include definitive disclosure statements for each author on the separate title page, and (3) during submission, affirm that disclosures have been made for each author. The existence of a conflict of interest does not preclude publication in the journal.
7. Authors are also responsible for disclosing any potential conflict of interest that might prevent an unbiased review. Potential conflicts for editor or reviewer assignments include when an editor or reviewer (1) is an author of the paper; (2) has a personal relationship with an author that prevents the editor or reviewer from being objective; (3) chaired an author's dissertation committee or an author chaired the dissertation committee of the editor or reviewer; (4) works at the same institution as an author, or worked at the same institution within the last five years; or (5) has co-authored a paper with an author. Authors are requested to complete and submit an [Author Conflict of Interest form](#) upon submission.
8. Authors need to disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted tools in their work. Use of AI and AI-assisted writing tools must be consistent with the AAA policies on Authorship and Plagiarism, as well as other requirements listed in the AAA's [Publications Ethics for Academic Research](#).
9. All journal submissions require payment of a non-refundable submission fee, with AAA members paying a reduced amount as a member benefit. Payments can be made at <https://my.aaahq.org/Shop/Product-Catalog>.
10. Revisions should be submitted within the deadline requested by the journal or the editor, otherwise they will be considered new submissions, requiring a new submission fee.

## REVIEW PROCESS

The review process consists of the following:

1. The editor reviews the submitted manuscript for proper format and consistency with the mission of the journal. The author(s) is notified if the manuscript is deemed inappropriate for further consideration.
2. Manuscripts that pass the initial review are sent to a minimum of two reviewers for formal review. The editor is responsible for ensuring reviewers have the appropriate expertise to review the

manuscript and have no conflicts of interest. Editorial board members serve as the primary panel of reviewers, though ad hoc reviewers with appropriate expertise may be asked to review. All reviews are double-blind. Protecting the anonymity of authors and reviewers is one of the most critical goals of the editorial process.

3. The editor evaluates comments and recommendations of the reviewers and informs the author(s) of the decision regarding the publication of the manuscript (reject, accept, or revise/resubmit). The editor's decision and comments, without identifying information, are forwarded to the reviewers.
4. Requested revisions are returned to the same reviewers. In addition to the revised manuscript, the author(s) should submit responses to the reviewer comments that restate the comments and identify how and where the comment is addressed in the revision.
5. The process will continue as described above until a final publication decision is made.
6. All decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
7. Consistent with our Publication Ethics policy on plagiarism all articles are automatically processed through CrossCheck prior to publication to identify text taken from published and unpublished works, print or digital, that is not properly cited or quoted. Authors are responsible for obtaining reprint permissions. For a full version of the Plagiarism policy, please refer to the American Accounting Association's [Publications Ethics for Academic Research](#).

The review, as outlined above, is an overview of the actual process. The editor may, in some circumstances, vary this process at his or her discretion. Through its constructive and responsive editorial procedures, the journal aims to render research efforts relevant and rewarding for all concerned.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

An abstract of 150 words should be presented on a separate page immediately preceding the text. The abstract should concisely inform the reader of the manuscript's topic, its method, and its findings. The abstract is to be followed by four key words that will help in indexing the paper.

### **Journal-specific documentation information:**

#### ***Citations and Other Footnotes***

Authorities should be cited in footnotes using *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* styles. Textual footnotes should be used for extensions and useful excursions of information that if included in the body of the text might disrupt its continuity. Footnotes should be consecutively numbered throughout the manuscript with superscript Arabic numerals.

#### ***Sample Entries for Legislative Sources***

An Internal Revenue Code Section: I.R.C. §61.  
An enacted bill: H.R. 3838, 99th Cong., 2d Sess. (1986) (enacted).  
Congressional committee report: H.R. Rep. No. 1043, 99th Cong., 2d Sess. 11 (1985), 1985-1 C.B. 412.  
Congressional hearing: *Senate Hearings before the Committee on Finance on Tax Reform Proposal – 1*, 99th Cong., 1st Sess. 3 (1985) (Statement of Sen. Chafee).

#### ***Sample Entries for Administrative Sources***

Treas. Reg. §1.162-4(a).  
Rev. Rul. 83-137, 1983-2 C.B. 41.  
Rev. Proc. 85-37, 1985-2 C.B. 66.  
T.D. 7522, 1978-1 C.B. 59.  
Priv. Ltr. Rul. 91-10-003 (March 15, 1991).  
Tech. Adv. Mem. 85-04-005 (September 18, 1985).  
I.R.S. Notice 89-29, 1989-1 C.B. 33.

### **Sample Entries for Judicial Sources**

- United State Supreme Court opinion: *United States v. Mitchell*, 403 U.S. 190 (1971).  
Regular Tax Court opinion: *Pope v. Commissioner*, 114 T.C. 789 (2000).  
Memorandum Tax Court opinion: *Brown v. Commissioner*, 65 T.C.M. (CCH) 666 (1983), T.C.M. (RIA) 93.039.  
Circuit Court of Appeals opinion: *White v. Commissioner*, 32 F.3d 108 (CA-6 2000).  
United States District Court opinion: *Grey v. United States*, 222 F.Supp. 109 (M.D. Georgia, 1955).  
Court of Federal Claims opinion: *Green v. United States*, 405 F.2d 890 (Fed.Cl. 1993).

### **Sample Entries for Secondary Sources**

- Cunningham, L. E. 1964. *National Health Insurance and the Medical Deduction*. 50 Tax L. Rev. 237, 244-6.  
De Waegenaere, A., R. Sansing, and J. Wielhouwer. 2001. *Valuation of Deferred Tax Assets from a Net Operating Loss Carryover*. Discussion Paper No. 2001-24. Available at: <http://arno.uvt.nl/show.cgi?fid=4002> (last accessed July 11, 2011).  
Harper, M. R. 1998. The marvel of medical savings accounts. *Wall Street Journal* (January 23): A-14.  
Slemrod, J., and J. Bakija. 2001. Second edition. *Taxing Ourselves: A Citizen's Guide to the Great Debate over Tax Reform* 201. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.  
Environmental Protection Agency. Brownfields Tax Incentive Guidelines. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>.  
Horwood, R. M. 2000. *Corporate Reorganizations*, 52-3rd Tax Mgmt. Portfolio (BNA), at A-25.

## **Human Subject Research Disclosure**

Many approaches to accounting research involve interactions with, and about, human beings. Given the general rise in hybrid, multi-method, and blended research projects, many accounting research projects are now subject to human participant review. Broadly speaking, any research that involves interactions with human participants, even tangentially, is subject to country-specific government rules and regulations. In the US, rules promulgated by the FDA of the US government (HRP-001) set out the following definitions:

**2.16 Human subject** means a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research:

- (i) Obtains information or biospecimens through intervention or interaction with the individual, and uses, studies, or analyzes the information or biospecimens; or
- (ii) Obtains, uses, studies, analyzes, or generates identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens

2.16.1 Intervention: Physical procedures by which data are gathered (for example, venipuncture) and manipulations of the subject or the subject's environment that are performed for research purposes.

2.16.2 Interaction: Communication or interpersonal contact between investigator and subject.

2.16.3 Private Information: Information about behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place, and information which has been provided for specific purposes by an individual and which the individual can reasonably expect will not be made public (for example, a medical record)

**2.28 Research** means a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

Universities are generally responsible for enforcing these rules and regulations for all researchers affiliated with the university, and researchers are often required to obtain training on IRB regulations. Researchers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the appropriate rules and regulations before undertaking a research project. If human subjects are involved in any way—as a participant in a lab experiment, a respondent to a survey, a focus of an interview, or as the result of an intervention associated with a field

experiment—it is highly likely that the project will require review by the researcher’s university-based Institutional Review Board (IRB). Projects by accounting researchers may be exempt from IRB review or eligible for an expedited review process. However, the decision to obtain an IRB review is not the researcher’s and it is always best, when in doubt, to obtain an assessment from the local IRB.

Failure to obtain appropriate clearance from the IRB of an author’s university is grounds for a desk reject of a submitted paper. Authors should be aware that different universities may have different approaches to IRB approval, including whether all authors have to seek IRB approval at their local institution. Further, US-based researchers normally need local IRB approval for cases where the human participants are in different countries or legal jurisdictions.

Author teams composed entirely of non-USA based authors must comply with the local equivalence to US IRB rules and be prepared to offer proof of such clearance. This policy statement does not substitute for an assessment by the local IRB and, if in doubt, always obtain clearance from your local IRB.

For more information, please refer to the Human Subjects Research policy in the American Accounting Association’s [Publications Ethics for Academic Research](#).