

BANKING & FINANCE LAW REVIEW

Style Guidelines for Authors

2026 Edition

Based on the 5th edition of OSCOLA

The *Banking & Finance Law Review* (BFLR) is an international peer-reviewed journal devoted to banking law, financial regulation, insolvency, payments, financial technology, and related fields. The journal fosters an ongoing scholarly dialogue by publishing rigorous and innovative research from around the world.

These Style Guidelines are intended to promote consistency, facilitate efficient editing, and ensure that published articles meet the journal's editorial standards. Use them when preparing manuscripts for submission to the BFLR. They are based on the 5th edition of the Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), with modifications to reflect the BFLR's house style. Where these Guidelines do not address a particular issue, follow OSCOLA.

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1. HEADINGS

Use the following hierarchy of headings throughout the manuscript:

Level 1: **1. BOLD, ALL CAPS, ROMAN**

Level 2: **(a) Bold, Title Case, Roman**

Level 3: *(i) Sentence case, italics*

Level 4: A. Sentence case, roman

Number all headings including Introduction and Conclusion.

If headings are renumbered during editing, ensure that all cross-references are updated accordingly.

2. TITLE AND AUTHOR

Centre the article title at the top of the first page. Centre the author's name(s) immediately beneath the title.

Do not include academic or professional titles (for example, Dr, Prof, or Professor) with an author's name.

Insert an asterisk (*) footnote callout immediately after each author's name. The author footnote

should identify the author's position, institutional affiliation, the country in which the institution is located, and any other information the author wishes to include (for example, acknowledgements, funding, or disclosure statements, where appropriate).

Where there is more than one author, assign each author a separate footnote callout using successive symbols (*, **, ***).

Author footnotes should be formatted in 11-point Times New Roman.

Example

FinTech and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Building Financial Ecosystems for Resilience, Innovation and Sustainable Development

Douglas W Arner,* Ross P Buckley,** and Dirk A Zetzsche***

...

* Kerry Holdings Professor in Law, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR).

** Scientia Professor, School of Law, Society and Criminology, University of New South Wales, Australia.

*** Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

3. ABSTRACT AND KEYWORDS

Full-length articles and Recent Development articles must include an abstract of approximately 200-500 words.

The abstract should appear on the first page immediately below the article title and author name(s).

Include up to 10 keywords immediately below the abstract.

4. TABLE OF CONTENTS

Do not include a table of contents.

5. PUNCTUATION

Apply the following punctuation conventions throughout the manuscript.

Serial comma: Use the serial (Oxford) comma in body text. Do not use the serial comma in footnote citations.

Example

Douglas W Arner, Ross P Buckley and Dirk A Zetzsche

Em dash: Use an open em dash, with a space on either side (for example, text — other text). Do not use a closed em dash (text—other text).

Quotation marks: Place punctuation outside closing quotation marks unless it forms part of the quoted material.

Ellipsis: Use an open ellipsis, with a space before, between, and after the three dots.

Example

‘Quoted text ... continues quoted text.’

Spacing: Use a single space after punctuation. Do not use double spaces between sentences.

6. ABBREVIATIONS AND SHORT FORMS

Apply the following conventions when using abbreviations, acronyms, and defined short forms.

Periods: Do not use periods in abbreviations in body text (for example, eg, ie, Ltd, Co). In footnotes, follow the applicable citation format.

Defined short forms: When introducing an abbreviated form of a word or phrase, spell out the full term on first reference, followed by the short form in parentheses.

Example

financial technologies (fintech)

Acronyms: When introducing an acronym, spell out the full name on first reference, followed by the acronym in parentheses. Do not use quotation marks, boldface, or italics.

Example

Intelligent Robots Development and Distribution Promotion Act (IRDDPA)

Consistency: After first reference, use the defined abbreviation, acronym, or short form consistently throughout the manuscript.

Avoid unnecessary abbreviations: Do not introduce an abbreviation, acronym, or short form unless it will be used more than once.

7. CAPITALIZATION

Use capitals only for proper nouns and official names. Do not capitalize common nouns or legal concepts for emphasis.

Proper nouns: Capitalize the names of persons, organizations, institutions, statutes, government bodies, programs, and other official names.

Common nouns: Do not capitalize generic terms or concepts unless they form part of a proper noun.

Abbreviations: When introducing an abbreviation or acronym, capitalize the spelled-out term only if it is a proper noun.

Example

machine learning (ML)

Defined terms: Do not capitalize a term solely because it has been defined, unless it is capitalized in the source document or forms part of a proper noun.

Government: Lowercase government, federal government, provincial/state government, court, judge, and minister, unless the term forms part of an official title.

Titles of works: Capitalize the first letter of all major words in the titles of books, articles, chapters, and other works. Generally lowercase articles, conjunctions, and prepositions unless they begin the title or subtitle.

8. NUMBERS AND DATES

Apply the following conventions for numbers, ranges, percentages, and dates.

Numbers: Spell out numbers from one to nine. Use numerals for 10 and above, or where numbers below 10 appear in a range that includes numbers of 10 or more.

Examples

five-year plan

10 years

5 to 15 percent

Ranges: Use an en dash (–), not a hyphen (-), for numerical and date ranges. For ranges between 10 and 20, give both numbers in full. For numbers above 20, use the minimum number of digits necessary in the second number, but always retain at least two digits. Where the second number would otherwise begin with 0, give it in full. Do not truncate paragraph numbers.

Examples

1–6

11–17

121–25

1782–84

201–203

[120]–[123]

1871–1914

1924–29

Dates: Use the day-month-year format without commas.

Example

25 December 2017

Percentages: Spell out percent when the number is written in words. Use the percent sign (%) with numerals.

Examples

five percent

15%

20%

Ordinals: Spell out the first to ninth; use numerals thereafter (10th, 21st, 35th). Do not use superscript for ordinal indicators.

Examples

first edition

seventh chapter

12th edition

Currencies: Use numerals with currency symbols.

Examples

\$5 million

£25,000

€500

9. SPELLING

Use one standard variety of English consistently throughout the manuscript. Do not mix spelling conventions within the same article. For example, British, American, and Canadian spelling are all acceptable. To facilitate editing, set the document language in Microsoft Word to the appropriate English variety.

Quotations should preserve the spelling used in the original source.

10. QUOTATIONS

Use single quotation marks (‘’) for quotations. Use double quotation marks (“”) only for quotations within quotations.

Place punctuation outside the closing quotation marks unless it forms part of the quoted material.

Example

An official known as a ‘referee’.

Short and long quotations: Incorporate quotations of up to three lines into the text. Present quotations longer than three lines as indented paragraphs. Do not use quotation marks for indented quotations, except that quotations within an indented quotation should be enclosed in single quotation marks. Indent from both the left and right margins and use the same font and font size as the main text.

Leave a line space above and below an indented quotation and do not further indent the first line.

Place the footnote callout at the end of the indented quotation.

Omissions: Indicate omissions within quotations using an ellipsis (...). Never use an ellipsis at the beginning of a quotation. Leave a space between an ellipsis and any text or punctuation.

Alterations: Indicate editorial additions or alterations using square brackets. Quotations should reproduce the original faithfully.

Errors: Where the original contains an error, insert [sic] immediately after the error.

Emphasis: Preserve italics appearing in the original quotation. Where emphasis has been added, state (emphasis added) after the citation. Where relevant, indicate original emphasis by stating (emphasis in original).

Example

² Christine Desan, ‘Money’s Design Elements: Debt, Liquidity, and the Pledge of Value from Medieval Coin to Modern “Repo”’ (2022) 38 BFLR 331, 335 (emphasis added).

11. CITATIONS

Format footnotes following the guidelines of the 5th edition of OSCOLA. The full guide is available on the [Oxford Faculty of Law website](#).

Apply the following general rules to all footnote citations:

End each footnote with a period.

Separate multiple citations within a single footnote with a semicolon.

Multiple authors: Where a source has two or three authors or editors, give all names and use and, not &. Where a source has more than three authors or editors, give the first name followed by and others.

Order of sources: Where multiple sources of the same kind support a single proposition, cite them in chronological order. Where some sources are more directly relevant, cite those first and introduce less directly relevant sources with See also.

Example

Banking Act 1970 (Singapore), s 4; EP Ellinger, Eva Z Lomnicka and Richard Hooley, *Ellinger's Modern Banking Law* (5th edn, Oxford University Press 2011) 148–55.

(a) Books

Author, *Title* (Additional Information, Edition, Publisher Year) Pinpoint.

Italicize the titles of books.

Ebooks: Cite an ebook as the print edition where it uses the same page or paragraph numbering. Where there is no print edition, identify the ebook format or edition before the publisher.

Examples

EP Ellinger, Eva Z Lomnicka and Richard Hooley, *Ellinger's Modern Banking Law* (5th edn, Oxford University Press 2011) 148–55.

HG Beale (ed), *Chitty on Contracts: Specific Contracts* (vol 2, 30th edn, Sweet & Maxwell 2008).

(b) Chapters in Edited Books

Author, 'Chapter Title' in Editor (ed), *Book Title* (Publisher Year)

Italicize the title of the edited book.

Pinpoint: Do not include the chapter's starting page unless it is being used as a pinpoint. Where a pinpoint is required, give the relevant page or paragraph number at the end of the citation.

Example

Benjamin Geva, 'Payment in Virtual Currency: The Legal Challenge' in William Blair, Christos Gortsos and Chiara Zilioli (eds), *International Monetary and Banking Law Post COVID-19* (Oxford University Press 2023).

(c) Articles

Author, 'Article Title' (Year) Volume Journal First Page, Pinpoint.

Year and volume: Use square brackets around the year where the year identifies the volume; use round brackets where the volume is identified separately.

Issue numbers: Include an issue number only where pagination begins again with each issue.

Journal titles: Do not italicize journal titles. Use established abbreviations without full stops and use them consistently. For *Banking & Finance Law Review*, use BFLR.

Online-only articles: Where an article is published only electronically and lacks conventional publication details, such as page numbers, cite the publication information available.

Examples

Roy Goode, ‘Subsistence Farming in Africa and the Pretoria Protocol to the Cape Town Convention’ (2022) 38 BFLR 137, 142.

Rosa M Lastra and Sara Dietz, ‘Communication in Monetary Policy’ (2022) 38 BFLR 365, 371.

Julie-Anne Tarr, Dino Wilkinson and Anthony Tarr, ‘Insurance in the Digital Age: Legal and Regulatory Challenges’ [2024] JBL 205, 210.

(d) Cases

Neutral citations: Where a case has a neutral citation, cite the neutral citation. Where the case is also reported, cite the best report after the neutral citation.

Cases without neutral citations: Where no neutral citation is available, cite the best available report and include the court identifier where required.

Parallel citations: BFLR does not generally require multiple report citations. A further report citation may be included where it would materially assist readers in locating the case.

Pinpoints: Cite paragraph numbers in square brackets where available. Where the judgment

does not use numbered paragraphs, cite the relevant page number without square brackets.

Jurisdiction identifiers: Where the court identifier clearly identifies the jurisdiction (for example, ABQB, UKSC, NSCA, HCA), do not add a separate jurisdiction identifier. Where it does not clearly identify the jurisdiction, include a jurisdiction identifier in parentheses at the end of the citation and before any pinpoint, where required.

(i) *United Kingdom and Commonwealth jurisdictions*

A. Case with a neutral citation

Case Name Year Court Number (jurisdiction identifier, where required), Pinpoint.

Example

Toronto Dominion Bank v Whitford 2020 ABQB 802 [9]–[10].

B. Reported case with a neutral citation

Case Name Year Court Number, [Year] Volume Report First Page (jurisdiction identifier, where required), Pinpoint.

Example

Campbell v MGN Ltd [2004] UKHL 22, [2004] 2 AC 457.

C. Reported case without a neutral citation

Case Name (Year) Volume Report First Page (jurisdiction identifier, where required), Pinpoint.

Example

Miller v Race (1758) 97 ER 398 (KB).

(ii) *United States*

Case Name Volume Report First Page, Pinpoint (Year).

Example

Meritor Sav. Bank v Vinson 477 US 57, 60 (1986).

(iii) *Other jurisdictions*

Cite cases from other jurisdictions according to the citation practice of the jurisdiction in which they were decided, using minimal punctuation. Add a court or jurisdiction identifier where necessary.

(e) Legislation

Titles: Cite legislation by its short title and year. Do not insert a comma before the year. Do not italicize the title of legislation.

Jurisdiction identifiers: When citing legislation from a federal state or where the jurisdiction is not otherwise clear from the context, include the jurisdiction in parentheses.

Pinpoint references: Use the following abbreviations in the footnotes. Spell out the terms when referring to provisions in the body of the article.

Body text	Footnotes
part/parts	pt/pts
section/sections	s/ss
subsection/subsections	sub-s/sub-ss
paragraph/paragraphs	para/paras
subparagraph/ subparagraphs	subpara/ subparas
schedule/schedules	sch/schs

(i) *United Kingdom and Commonwealth jurisdictions*

Act Title Year (jurisdiction identifier), Pinpoint.

Examples

Shipping and Trading Interests (Protection) Act 1995 (UK).

Bank Act 1991 (Canada), s 2.

Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001.

Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 (Singapore), s 1.

(ii) *United States*

Official Act Title, Title Number USC §§ Sections (Code Edition Year).

Example

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 USC §§ 9601–9675 (2006).

(iii) *Other jurisdictions*

Cite legislation from other jurisdictions according to the citation practice of the relevant jurisdiction, omitting full stops from abbreviations and adding a jurisdiction identifier where necessary.

(f) Electronic Sources

Cite electronic sources according to the type of source. Where a publication is available both online and in hard copy, cite the hard-copy version.

Persistent links: Where available, use a persistent link (for example, Perma.cc) or a DOI rather than a temporary or search-result URL.

Access dates: An access date is not required where a persistent link or DOI is provided. Where neither is available, cite the webpage hosting the content and include the date of access.

Downloaded content: Do not cite a PDF or other downloaded file merely because it was the form in which the source was accessed; cite the webpage hosting the content instead.

Websites: Give the author, title of the contribution in single quotation marks, website name in italics, publication date where known, and a URL, persistent link, or DOI.

Example

Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, ‘Sound Practices, Implications of Fintech Developments for Banks and Bank Supervisors’ (Bank for International Settlements 2018) <<https://www.bis.org/bcbs/publ/d431.pdf>> accessed 30 July 2026, 8.

(g) Working Papers and Other Institutional Publications

Cite working papers in a similar manner to electronic journal articles. Where a working paper has subsequently been published as a journal article or other published work, cite the published version in preference to the working paper.

Example

Christos Gortsos, ‘European (EU) Capital Markets Law at (close to) 50: Historical Evolution and Missing Elements’ (2026) European Banking Institute Working Paper Series No 207 <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6689178>.

Reports and institutional publications: Identify the responsible author or institution and provide sufficient publication information to identify the source. Where the publication is available online, apply the electronic-source rules above.

12. SUBSEQUENT REFERENCES

Do not use *ibid*. For a subsequent citation, briefly identify the source and give a cross-reference in parentheses to the footnote containing the full citation.

Example

Arner (n 5).

Source identifiers: Use the author's surname for books, articles, and electronic sources and the case name for judicial decisions. Where necessary to distinguish between works by the same author, include enough of the title to identify the source. Legislation may be referred to subsequently by its title or an established short form where the reference is clear.

Supra and infra: Do not use *supra* or *infra*.

Short forms: Establish a short form in parentheses where necessary to distinguish between authorities with similar names. Use roman type for parentheses, even where the short form itself is italicized. Use italics for a short form where the referenced material would ordinarily be italicized.

Examples

Qualex-Landmark Towers Inc v 12-10 Capital Corp 2023 ABKB 109 (*Qualex KB*).

Qualex-Landmark Towers Inc v 12-10 Capital Corp 2024 ABCA 162 (*Qualex CA*).

Iris H-Y Chiu, ‘Transforming the Financial Advice Market — The Roles of Robo-advice, Financial Regulation and Public Governance in the United Kingdom’ (2019) 35 BFLR 9.

Chiu, ‘Transforming the Financial Advice Market’ (n 3).

Iris H-Y Chiu, ‘Technological Transformations in the Financial Sector: Principles for *Lex Specialis*, *Lex Generalis* and Their Interrelationship’ (2023) 40 BFLR 1.

Chiu, ‘Technological Transformations’ (n 5).

(a) When to Footnote

Citations: Include a footnote where necessary to identify the source supporting a quotation, reference, or proposition. A separate footnote is not required where the source is adequately identified in the text.

1. At each direct quotation from a source
2. At each reference or allusion to a specific passage in a source
3. At the end of an indented quotation

Additional information: Footnotes may also be used to provide supplementary discussion or additional references (for example, see also, see further).

(b) Footnote Callouts

Placement: Footnote callouts should be placed after closing punctuation, normally at the end of the sentence.

Examples

‘Quoted text.’¹

In interpreting the Example Act,² the courts generally ...

Parenthetical text: Where the cited material appears within parentheses, place the footnote callout before the closing parenthesis.

Example

(Text to be cited.³)

13. EDITORIAL DISCRETION

Where these Style Guidelines differ from OSCOLA, follow these Guidelines. Where they do not address a particular issue, follow the 5th edition of OSCOLA. The editors reserve the right to make minor stylistic and formatting changes to ensure consistency throughout the journal.