I. Manuscript submission

The Rabel Journal publishes original contributions if they have successfully passed the internal peer review process. As a rule, that procedure takes between 3–6 weeks.

Articles are published in German, English or French, provided that they have not simultaneously been offered for publication elsewhere.

To facilitate a swift editorial processing, authors are kindly requested to comply with the following guidelines. The editorial office reserves the right to revise manuscripts accordingly.

A document template for submissions can be provided upon request (optional). Manuscripts must be sent as Word documents to:

rabelsz@mpipriv.de

II. Text design

Articles should generally comprise 20–30 printed pages, with each containing approx. 3,000 characters, including spaces and footnotes.

An English abstract of no more than 1,250 characters including spaces must be attached.

Grammar and spelling should be based on a current edition of a standard English dictionary.

Every essay should be structured by subheadings as follows: I., 1., a), (1), (a). A Table of Contents is to be placed in front of the main text.

The formatting should be plain (i.e. no bold print or spaced letters and also no underlining). Text markups are produced by the editorial office.

Highlighting for the purposes of accentuation must be in italics. Foreign terms or phrases (i.e. those deviating from the manuscript language) should also be in italics. However, please do not italicize quotations or proper names as such.

Paragraphs containing lengthy citations or subordinate text passages (e.g. case descriptions) must be in small print. When quoting literally, always use quotation marks and indicate any omission or addition to the original text with square brackets. Provide the pertinent sources also for translations.

References within the text should ideally be made to the relevant section of the submission or to the text preceding or following a footnote number.

Footnotes are automatically counted, and they should be indicated by a superscript number after the punctuation mark. Acknowledgements and other general information are to be included in a special footnote * and attached to the Table of Contents.

III. Citation format in footnotes

The Rabel Journal is characterized by an international multi-lingual audience, requiring – in view of diverse national academic and legal styles and traditions – maximum readability and accuracy, not least when citing sources. Since there are no uniform international standards, this journal adopts the following citation scheme:

Initial citation. – For every source mentioned for the first time, the full names of all authors and editors must be provided. Only authors’ names should be italicized. The main title of each source must be fully reproduced. All names and titles in non-Latin characters should be provided in the original; in such cases and also for all non-Western languages, English translations must be appended parenthetically. The place of publication is generally requested for pre-1900 books and may also be indicated in other instances to avoid doubts.

When citing literature of any sort, editorships or outline elements, such as text marginal numbers or paragraphs, must be given in the manuscript’s language. Editions are provided by superscript numbers. The initial citation of contributions in collective volumes and journals must specify the full titles and page ranges. Indefinite pinpoint numbering (“ff.”) is to be avoided. For journals, please use their standard abbreviations and follow their own recommended citation scheme. Archive journals and yearbooks require a volume number.

References with regard to the source, designation, and citation of statutes, legislative materials and court decisions should follow the practice in the country of origin. Common abbreviations of such sources are to be used in their original form. Concerning continental courts, the dates of the decisions must always be indicated.

Internet addresses are to be provided if the underlying source is or was exclusively available online; please indicate the retrieval dates. In other cases, references to printed material are preferred.

Subsequent citation. – All subsequent citations take an abbreviated form, usually accompanied by a cross-reference to the footnote of the initial citation:

As to monographs and contributions in collective volumes and journals, the author’s surname is repeated, along with one or more keywords contained in the title and followed by a reference to the footnote with the initial (full) citation and to the specific passage(s) now being referred to.

With regard to commentaries, encyclopaedias, handbooks etc., their common designation should be used instead of title keywords and should be placed before the author’s name. If reference is made to a different contribution in or a different edition of a work already cited, this is to be regarded as an initial citation to which reference has to be made in subsequent citations.

In subsequent citations court decisions are also repeated in abbreviated form directing the reader to the footnote of initial citation.

With statutes and other norms, such cross-reference to the place of first citation is not necessary.

(please see next page for examples)
1. Literature

a) Monographs, textbooks etc.

Konrad Zweigert / Hein Kötz, Einführung in die Rechtsvergleichung auf dem Gebiete des Privatrechts (1966) 73

Zweigert / Kötz, Einführung (n. 1) 13–17


Venedikov, New Property Law (n. 2) 34

b) Contributions in collective volumes, Festschriften etc.


Hirte, Inspire Art (n. 3) 23–25, 31–38, 42

Heike Schweitzer, Handelsvertreterverträge im europäischen Wettbewerbsrecht, in: Hopt / Tzoumanakos, n. 3 195–219, 203

Schweitzer, Handelsvertreterverträge (n. 4) 204 n. 32 with further references


Wengler, Mythen lex fori (n. 5) 303

c) Commentaries, handbooks, encyclopedias etc.


PuMo BGB / Looschelders (n. 6) Art. 14 EGBGB no. 8


Staudinger/Herzog (n. 7) Einl. zu §§ 2353–2370 BGB no. 52

Christian Jung / Wolfgang Deselaers, in: Grabitz / Hilf / Nettesheim, Recht der EU (looseleaf, 2011) Art. 102 AEUV no. 3

Grabitz / Hilf / Nettesheim / Jung / Deselaers (n. 8) Art. 102 AEUV nos. 7–9

Felix Maultzsch, in: Beck-Online, Großkommentar zum Zivilrecht (1 December 2016) Art. 17 Rom II-VO nos. 4, 62

BeckOGK / Maultzsch (n. 9) Art. 17 Rom II-VO no. 5


Chitty on Contracts / Whitaker (n. 10) no. 1-127

d) Journals, archive journals and yearbooks with volume number


Dethloff, Familierecht in Europa (n. 11) 27


Halbfleiter, Nachhaltiges Privatrecht (n. 12) 750


Greene, Rights as Trumps? (n. 13) 50

Peter Stein, Elegance in Law, (1961) 77 LQR 242–256, 244

Stein, Elegance (n. 14) 244

董士兵 [Shiying Cao], 最高人民法院裁判、司法解释的法律地位（The Legal Status of Decisions and Judicial Interpretations of the Supreme People’s Court of China）, 中国法学 [China Legal Science] 2006, 3, 175–199, 175

Cao, Legal Status (n. 16) 177

2. Internet sources, newspapers, legislative material etc.


Wood, Concept of Security Interest (n. 17) 8


BaFin, Jahresbericht 2014 (n. 18) 15–17

Tanjev Schultz, Spurensuche im Graubereich, SZ of 16 February 2011, p. 12

Schultz, Spurensuche (n. 19) 12

Deutscher Bundestag, Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Modernisierung des Schuldrechts, BT-Drs. 14/6040 of 14 May 2001, p. 35

Deutscher Bundestag, BT-Drs. 14/6040 (n. 20) 79

3. Court decisions

Germany: BGH 26 March 2009 – I ZR 153/06, BGHZ 180, 344, no. 14

BGH 26 March 2009 (n. 21) no. 4

Switzerland: BGer. 4 August 2005, BGE 132 III 18 E. 4.1

BGer. 4 August 2005 (n. 22) E. 4.4

France: Cass.civ. 3° 18 March 2009, no. 07-21260, Bull.civ. 2009, III, no. 64

Cass.civ. 3° 18 March 2009 (n. 23)

Italy: Cass. 17 September 1997, no. 9260, Foro it. 1998, I, 1217, 1219

Cass. 17 September 1997 (n. 24) 1217

EU: CJEU 13 February 2014 – Case C-466/12 (Nils Svensson a.o.), ECLI:EU:C:2014:76, nos. 39–42

CJEU 13 February 2014 – Svensson (n. 25) no. 43


ECHR 26 June 2014 – Mennesson (n. 26) no. 9

UK: Bouling v. Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, [1963] 2 QB 606 (CA)

Bouling v. Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (n. 27) 608


Feinberg v. Auto Banking Corp. (n. 28) 510

4. Statutory law etc.

Germany: Gesetz über die Eingetragene Lebenspartnerschaft (Lebenspartnerschaftsgesetz – PartG) of 16 February 2018, BGBl. 2018 I 266

§§ 2, 3 para. 2 sent. 2 LPartG

France: Art. 42 Loi n° 2007-308 portant réforme de la protection juridique des majeurs, J.O. no. 56 of 7 March 2007, p. 4325

Arts. 43, 44 para. 2 subpara. 3 sent. 1 Loi n° 2007-308


Art. 6 para. 3 lit. a Rome II Regulation

UK: ss. 5 Financial Services and Markets Act (FSMA) 2000 (c. 8)

ss. 12, 23(1)(a) FSMA 2000

USA: sec. 3 Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. § 77a

secs. 5, 12(a)(2) Securities Act 1933