

Letter from the Editor (NCLR 2025/1)

Published 17 december, 2025

By Editor-in-Chief, professor, dr.jur. Johan Bärlund – University of Helsinki

Welcome to the new Nordic law journal, the Nordic Commercial Law Review (NCLR)!

A new boost for Nordic cooperation in the field of commercial law (formueret/förmögenhetsrätt) has resulted in the launch of NCLR on 27 November 2025 in Copenhagen, when the external NCLR website was made public, containing a selection of articles from all five Nordic countries. From the launch onward, the journal is now accepting submissions from the entire Nordic scholarly community within its subject area. The launch marks not only the publication of a new journal, but also the beginning of a long-term Nordic collaboration aimed at strengthening the international dissemination of Nordic research in commercial law. The launch event also presented the journal's vision, publication process and editorial guidelines, as well as the editorial plan that will guide the selection of articles in the first years.

Why is the Nordic Commercial Law Review needed?

In the field of legal scholarship, much is still published in the Nordic countries in the domestic languages. Legal research in these languages is of great importance. At the same time, the use of these languages to convey scholarly research is important to ensure that our languages remain societal languages in the future.

Yet, Nordic commercial law publications in Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish languages prevent readers who do not master these languages to access these contributions. This is particularly true for research presenting micro-level comparisons between the law of the various Nordic countries.

It used to be costly to have scholarly articles translated into other languages, but with the development of high-quality machine translation using generative AI, it is now possible to obtain translations of good quality – quickly and at low costs. NCLR builds on this development by combining machine translation with human post-editing and legal peer review to ensure that terminology, context and legal-cultural nuances are correctly conveyed. NCLR makes it possible to offer broader insights into Nordic legal scholarship in commercial law to a wider English-speaking readership, while respecting the nuances of the original language.

What is the background of the Nordic Commercial Law Review?

The starting signal for NCLR was the Nordic seminar held on 20–21 April 2023 at “Flädie Mat & Vingård” outside Lund. An invited group of scholars in commercial law from the four larger Nordic countries were invited by Professor Göran Millqvist to a “Nordic Center Meeting for planning contact and cooperation on a Nordic basis.” The meeting was successful, and on 21 April the participants were able to agree – alongside many other forms of cooperation – to pursue the idea of establishing “a Nordic journal for commercial law,” explicitly intended “to publish Nordic research in commercial law translated into English.”

During the meeting, several central questions were discussed: what types of articles are best suited for international publication, how to ensure high quality in translation and updating, and how to create a sustainable organizational structure and funding. It was agreed to establish a Nordic journal with a clear profile in commercial law in a broad sense.

The steering group for Nordic cooperation in commercial law takes the planning forward

At the Flädie meeting, a steering group for Nordic cooperation in commercial law was appointed. The group was chaired by Professor Johnny Herre from Sweden by associate professor Patrik Lindskoug (also from Sweden) as the coordinating person, and by Professor Birgitte Hagland (Norway), Professor Johan Bärlund (Finland) and Professor Mads Bryde Andersen (Denmark). The group was later complemented by associate professor Víðir Smári Petersen (Iceland).

On 24 November 2023, the steering group met in Copenhagen in connection with a successful Nordic doctoral course focused on common methodological issues. In Copenhagen, it was agreed to explore whether Denmark's Karnov Group would be willing to serve as publisher, which later proved possible.

Reception and adoption of principles

A proposal to establish a Nordic English-language journal in commercial law was presented at the Nordic Commercial Law Days in Reykjavík on 25 April 2024. The reception of this proposal was extremely positive. The Nordic steering group carried the plans forward so that in November 2024 it could adopt the principles for the Nordic Commercial Law Review and appoint the first Editorial board for NCLR.

Throughout 2024, the steering group has worked to develop guidelines for selection, a policy on copyright and republication, and practical routines for translation and updating of older articles. A quality process was also defined in which each article undergoes terminological harmonization. Since articles may have been published up to ten years before republication in English, they must be updated to reflect current law, with references to subsequent legislative amendments, case law and doctrine. Legal peer review is crucial, particularly with a focus on method, sources and style. Where necessary, the Editorial board may propose changes to make the articles appealing to an international audience without losing the Nordic context.

In this way, NCLR can become a new bridge between national Nordic legal scholarship and international discourse by republishing important articles with updated relevance. Likewise, NCLR will serve as a channel for original articles in English with a clear Nordic connection. In short, NCLR is to be a quality-driven open access publication based on a transparent editorial process.

Publication platform and open access

NCLR functions as a platform for publishing high-quality legal articles originally published in a language other than English in the Nordic countries. The Danish publisher Karnov Group publishes the articles both on its existing commercial platform and on an external website enabling free access outside the platform's usual paywalls (open access).

The external open access website is available at <https://www.karnovgroup.dk/nordic-commercial-law-review>.

Both platforms help to disseminate research findings more effectively to judges, legislators, academics, students and practitioners, both within and beyond the Nordic region. The external website is designed to be user-friendly, with improved search functions and information on original publications.

By also including the articles in Karnov's subscription-based Danish databases, it is ensured that they reach the legal professionals who use Karnov's tools in their daily practice.

Editorial board and advisory body

The Editorial board of NCLR consists of five well-renowned professors from the five Nordic countries. Editor-in-chief is Professor Johan Bärlund from Finland; deputy editor is Professor Mads Bryde Andersen from Denmark. The members of the editorial board are former Supreme Court Justice, Professor Svante O. Johansson from Sweden, Professor Ellen J. Eftestøl from Norway and Professor Valgerður Sólnes from Iceland.

The Editorial board will later be complemented by an Editorial Advisory board consisting of members with connections to the leading Nordic legal journals in commercial law. This Board will provide strategic guidance, propose articles to be translated, and strengthen contact with national editorial boards. The goal is to establish a robust structure that promotes quality, continuity and Nordic anchoring.

Scope and editorial policy

The Editorial board has decided that articles should address topics related to Nordic commercial law in a broad sense and be of interest to an English-speaking audience. Articles with a general focus on commercial law and a Nordic perspective are particularly suitable for NCLR, as are articles that discuss theoretical and methodological aspects of Nordic commercial law.

The starting point is that articles included in NCLR should concern private law relationships with a focus on contracts, torts, the law of obligations, and secured transactions, including real estate law, consumer law, property-law, rights of use, licenses, security interests and insolvency law. Traditionally, intellectual property law has also been classed as part of commercial law.

Outside the scope of the NCLR would be issues related to environmental protection law or sustainability law, and competition law.

Articles belonging to public law sphere such as constitutional law, administrative law, criminal law and procedural law, or public international law would also fall outside the journal's focus.

It will be up to the Editorial board, on a case-by-case basis, to decide which articles are, in terms of subject matter, within NCLR's scope.

Quality assurance and peer review

Many of the articles republished by NCLR have originally undergone peer review. The intention is that newly written articles submitted to NCLR will also be offered the possibility of peer review by two reviewers, at least one of whom will come from a Nordic country other than the author's home country. The review will assess not only the article's research questions, method, use of legal sources and argumentative structure, but also originality, clarity of presentation and readability for an international audience.

Upon republication, the article's origin and updates are clarified in the introduction to the article, facilitating correct academic referencing.

NCLR strives for indexing in relevant legal databases and search engines. An important aspect of visibility is good connections to Nordic research networks and conferences in commercial law. Although the journal primarily publishes submitted articles on a rolling basis, it will be possible to compile articles into thematic collections.

The first 13 articles in Nordic Commercial Law Review

The inaugural collection of thirteen articles in the NCLR presents a panoramic view of contemporary private and commercial law issues across the Nordic region, weaving together doctrinal analysis, practical implications, and comparative perspectives.

The collection spans personal injury and tort theory, EU/EEA contract regulation, property law foundations, insurance law, corporate law and eID misuse, AI-related liability, notice duties in contract breaches, termination thresholds for defects, and broader historical-cultural reflections on Nordic private law. The contributors – Nordic distinguished scholars – bring insights from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland, anchoring the scholarship in both national contexts and transnational frameworks (EU/EEA), while reflecting Nordic pragmatism and market realities.

Concluding remarks and invitation

With NCLR, we take an important Nordic step to make the best of our research in commercial law accessible to a global audience, without compromising what makes it Nordic: the language, tradition, legal sources and comparative perspective. The journal welcomes submissions from researchers at all career stages – from doctoral candidates to senior professors – and particularly encourages cross-border collaboration.

Authors wishing to contribute are invited to follow the journal's guidelines for manuscripts and formalities, which will soon be available on the external website. Questions regarding submissions, republication or thematic issues can be addressed to the Editorial board via the external website. We look forward to jointly developing an open, high-quality and Nordic-anchored arena for Nordic commercial law.