Official Rules
2014 Rona Mears Competition

1. Eligibility

Participants must be currently enrolled at an ABA-accredited law school, be a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident, and be a member of the ABA Section of International Law. Only one submission per participant.

Students can submit either a written essay or a video.

Written submissions should be essay quality, must not exceed 2,500 words and should not contain footnotes or endnotes (but can be supported by citations within the body). Video submissions should be recorded on a laptop computer (studio recordings are not permitted) and may not exceed five minutes. Video submissions should be a verbal analysis of the issue and can feature only the participant. Written and video submissions must be in English. Submissions not adhering to these guidelines will not be accepted for consideration. Only original and previously unpublished submissions are eligible.

Submissions prepared for law school credit are eligible, provided they are original works of the participant. Joint authored submissions are NOT eligible. Entrants may have a faculty member or practicing lawyer review and critique their work, but the submission must be the contestants’ own product. Judges and SIL leadership cannot participate in the contest or review/critique contestant entries prior to submission. Students who are employees of the ABA or immediate family members of ABA officers, directors, or employees are not eligible to compete.

Winner is responsible for all taxes associated with receiving an award and will be required to submit a completed W-9 as a condition of receiving any monetary award.

All submissions must be received by email addressed to angela.benson@americanbar.org by 5pm EDT on Monday, August 15, 2014.

2. Topic of Essay

Russia, The Crimea and International Law

Looking for an opportunity to bolster your resume and impress interviewers?

Participate in the ABA Section of International Law’s Rona Mears Student International Law Competition. Winner will receive not only $5,000, but also respected recognition and promotion among the Section’s 20,000+ prominent members.

And this isn’t a competition on a boring, irrelevant and convoluted topic – it is your opportunity to share your opinion on today’s hottest international law issue: Did Russia violate international law through its 2014 actions in the Crimea?
Get credit for the brilliant debate you have been having with your friends – write it down or video record your analysis for your chance to win $5,000.

3. Judging

Submissions will be judged on originality of analysis, persuasiveness, accuracy, and clarity of the presentation of the argument. Judging will be by a committee appointed by the Membership Committee that will select the winning submission.

One winner will be selected. The Committee reserves the right not to award the prize if the Committee determines that no entry is of sufficient quality to merit recognition. ABA staff will notify the winner no later than August 31, 2014. Winner will be notified by email. If winner does not respond within five business days or the email notification is returned as undeliverable, the winner forfeits all right to the prize or selection as the winner, and an alternative winner may be announced.

4. Reproduction

All submissions become the property of the ABA and will not be returned. By entering, the winning participants gives ABA the exclusive right of first publication of the submission, to reproduce the submission in any medium without time, use or territorial limitation, as long as the use is for noncommercial purposes. Winner also agrees by entering that ABA may announce the winner’s name and school.