

Guidelines and Criteria for ABA Health Law Student Writing Competition

Introduction

The American Bar Association (“ABA”) Health Law Section is pleased to announce its 13th Annual ABA Health Law Student Writing Competition, a writing competition open to any law student in an ABA-accredited law school (“Competition”).

I. Award Criteria and Limitations

1. The ABA Health Law Section will present an award, based on excellence of the paper, to a law student who writes a substantive paper on any aspect of health law. Awards will be based upon authorship of superior literary effort that advances and serves the interests and understanding of an emerging issue in health law. Topic selection is one of the criteria judged. The paper should be an original, practical examination of issues (rather than a recitation of existing research) related to the student’s topic. Papers should either address a topic that was not previously addressed in the past two to three years in *The Health Lawyer* or expand on or present an alternative or new theory, angle, or perspective on a topic that was previously addressed in the magazine. For a list of articles published in *The Health Lawyer*, copy and paste the following link: http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/healthlaw/health_lawyer_index.pdf
2. There will no more than one first place award given during any single ABA fiscal year. The author, subject and title of the paper, and the law school attended will be included in the announcement of the award.
3. Law Student Winners:

First Place

The first place award is publication in *The Health Lawyer*, a \$500 honorarium, and attendance at the ABA’s Emerging Issues in Healthcare conference (including airfare, at ABA rates), hotel for two nights and a \$50 per diem for two days). If the first place recipient is unable to attend the conference, the \$500 honorarium will be the sole award. Travel is non-transferable, and no substitution of individuals or cash or cash equivalents are allowed.

Runner(s)-Up

A second place winning paper will be named if deemed appropriate by the ABA Health Law Section. The second place winner will be published in *The Health Lawyer*, but no cash or travel award will be presented to the second place winner. Additional runners-up may be named at the discretion of the

ABA Health Law Section. Additional awards, if any, will be recognized in *The Health Lawyer* and may be published in the magazine.

II. Procedure

1. Papers should follow *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (19th edition)* style, and be a minimum of 20 typewritten, double-spaced, letter-size pages of text (or not less than 5,000 words of text) *plus* appropriate endnotes for a paper of publishable quality. Papers may not exceed 35 pages inclusive of endnotes.
2. The Section Chair of the ABA Health Law Section will appoint a committee (“Committee”) by September 30, 2014, to adjudicate the Competition. The Committee will consist of a minimum of five members, with at least one representative from the editorial board of *The Health Lawyer*.
3. Nominations of participants for the Competition may be made by:
 - a. Any member of the ABA Health Law Section;
 - b. A faculty member at any ABA-accredited law school;
 - c. Self-nomination; or
 - d. A member of the American Association of Law Schools.

The current Law Student Liaison to the Health Law Section’s Governing Council is not eligible to participate in the Competition.

4. In addition to the paper, each contestant *must* provide an electronic copy of his/her resume and a statement delineating his/her health law interests and current involvement in the health care field, including his/her goals.

Each contestant must send one copy of the paper, resume and interest statement via e-mail by 12:00 p.m. (CT), December 5, 2014, to: Simeon.Carson@americanbar.org. Upon receipt, the ABA Health Law Section will assign each paper a random number to ensure name and law school affiliation anonymity throughout the review process.

6. The Committee will review all papers. Individual Committee members may perform a preliminary review, depending on the number of submissions. The five finalist papers will be distributed to the entire Committee for a final vote. At the discretion of the Committee chair, such vote may be taken by mail, telephone conference, or meeting.
7. The Committee will notify the winner at least forty-five days prior to the start of the Emerging Issues in Healthcare conference, and the winner will be announced in the *Student Lawyer*, the ABA Law Student Division magazine, as well as in *The Health Lawyer* and on the ABA Health Law Section’s web site.

III. Additional Terms and Conditions

1. The ABA is not responsible for any computer or software errors, Internet failures, misdirected email, printing errors in these rules, or other technical failures incurred by contestants.
2. By entering this contest, contestant:
 - represents that his/her essay is original content;
 - understands that the ABA will not return his/her submitted essay copy;
 - agrees that the ABA may use his/her name and likeness in connection with this contest and a winning essay;
 - agrees that the ABA may publish a winning essay in *The Health Lawyer* and gives the ABA a right of publication worldwide and the right to use contestant's name, likeness and biography in connection with such publication; and
 - agrees that the ABA has the right to edit the essay to conform to the periodical's standards of style, technological requirements, language usage, grammar, and punctuation, provided that the meaning of the essay is not materially altered.
3. Each contestant releases the ABA and its respective employees, officers, directors, contractors, agents, representatives, successors and assigns from any damage, loss, or other liability that may arise from or in any way relate to participation in this Competition. This Competition will be governed by all federal, state, local and municipal laws and regulations. This Competition is void where prohibited by law. Any claim, judgment, or award will be limited to a contestant's actual out-of-pocket costs associated with entering this Competition. Contestant hereby waives any right or claim to attorney's fees, indirect, special, punitive, incidental, or consequential damage.
4. Information provided by contestants in connection with this Competition is subject to the ABA's privacy policy available at <http://www.americanbar.org/utility/privacy.html>

The ABA Health Law Student Writing Competition is sponsored by the American Bar Association through its Health Law Section.

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