American Bar Association Section of Public Contract Law
2020 Writing Competition Rules (the “Rules”)  

The 2020 Public Contract Law Writing Competition (the “Competition”) will be conducted in two divisions. Each division will be judged separately, and separate prizes will be awarded to the winners of each division.

(a) Division I is open to (i) candidates for a J.D. degree attending ABA-approved law schools within the United States and its possessions as of September 30, 2020 and (ii) recipients of a J.D. degree in 2020 from an ABA-approved law school within the United States and its possessions.

(b) Division II is open to (i) lawyers under the age of 36 years or admitted to practice less than five years as of September 30, 2020, (ii) LL.M candidates attending law schools within the United States and its possessions as of September 30, 2020, and (iii) LL.M graduates who attended law schools within the United States and its possessions and received their LL.M degree after September 30, 2019.

Eligibility: To be eligible to participate in the Competition, as of September 30, 2020 entrants must be 21 or over, U.S. citizens or permanent legal residents of the United States; and current members in good standing of the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Section of Public Contract Law (ABA and Section membership dues paid in full for the current bar year). Membership information, including reduced rates for current law students, may be obtained by contacting the ABA Service Center at 800.285.2221.

Entries: Papers should address a topical issue of interest to the public contract and grant law community. Unpublished papers prepared for law school credit are eligible for entry in the Competition. Papers prepared for law school credit that have been submitted to or published by the Public Contract Law Journal are also eligible for the Competition. Papers that have been published in media other than the Public Contract Law Journal prior to September 30, 2020 are not eligible for the Competition. Papers submitted for publication in media other than the Public Contract Law Journal are not eligible for the Competition, unless the other publication agrees that the Public Contract Law Journal shall have the right of first publication of the winning essay.

Eligibility determinations will be made by the editorial board of the Public Contract Law Journal and the ABA Section of Public Contract Law; all decisions regarding eligibility are final. Joint papers are not acceptable. Multiple submissions are acceptable; however, each author will only be eligible for one award.

All authors must certify (a) that the paper submitted is the author’s work product without substantial editing by others, and (b) that the paper submitted has not been published in media other than the Public Contract Law Journal. If the author has submitted the paper for publication anywhere other than the Public Contract Law Journal prior to September 30, 2020 the application must inform the ABA Section of Public Contract Law at the time of initial submission to the Competition. By entering, entrants warrant that their entry is original and not subject to any third-party copyright; that publication of the entry will not libel anyone or infringe on or invade the rights of others.
Paper Specifications:

- Papers must be 8-1/2” x 11,” double-spaced, and typed in 12-point font, including cited material and footnotes.
- Papers must include a brief (no more than 350 words) abstract.
- Papers must include a separate title page that lists the title of the paper only.
- Papers may not include the author’s name, school, year of study or any references to the author’s identity. Author information is be included on the entry form only.
- Papers may not include acknowledgements or expressions of gratitude to others.
- Papers shall conform to the most recent edition of *The Bluebook* and the PublicContract Law Journal Style Guide.

Entry Procedure: All applicants must complete the fillable PDF form, which prompts the author for the following information: author’s name, address, telephone number, email address, and ABA membership number; paper title; section membership and related information; certification of compliance with certain of these Rules; and information regarding the publication status of entry. Failure to provide any or all of the information requested in the form will result in the entry being ineligible for consideration.

Applicants must submit their Competition entries—including the paper, in Word format, and the fillable PDF form described above—by e-mail to Patty Brennan, Director, Section of Public Contract Law patty.brennan@americanbar.org with a copy to Tara L. Ward, Editor in Chief, at tward@wileyrein.com. Failure to submit either the paper or the fillable form to Ms. Brennan will result in the entry being ineligible for consideration.

**All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. Central Time Zone on September 30, 2020.**

Judging: The entries will be judged by an impartial panel of judges made up of members of the Public Contract Law Journal practitioner editorial board. Entries will be judged based on the overall quality of the paper, including clarity of the theme or thesis presented, significance of the topic to the field, originality and creativity of topic treatment, quality of analysis, quality of research and authority provided, and technical quality of writing, including organization, grammar, syntax and form.

Selection of Winners and Prizes: Winners will be selected and notified by January 30, 2021. The first-place Division I winner will receive an award of $2,000; second-place Division I winner will receive an award of $1,000; and third-place Division I winner will receive an award of $500. As a condition of receiving any cash award, winners must submit a completed IRS Form W-9. Winners are responsible for all taxes associated with receiving an award. Division II will consist of a single winner (if applicable) with an award of $1,000. The odds of winning depend on the number of entries received.

Judges may withhold some or all of the awards if the submissions are not of notable quality. In the event of a tie for first place, authors of the top submissions will split the $3,000 total prize amount allotted to first and second places. In the event of a tie for second place, the authors will split the $1,500 total prize amount allotted to second and third places. Winning entries will be considered for publication in the Public Contract Law Journal, and
selected competitors may be invited to present their papers during the ABA Section of Public Contract Law’s annual Federal Procurement Institute; however, publication and presentation decisions are made independent of this Competition and there is no guarantee that a winning entry will be published or selected for presentation.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:** For a list of prize winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope by May 31, 2021 to Section of Public Contract Law, ABA, 321 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60654.

**LICENSE/GRANT OF RIGHTS:** By entering, the winners grant to the ABA the following rights: (1) the exclusive worldwide right of first publication of their entry in any and all ABA media or form of communication; (2) the non-exclusive worldwide right, in ABA’s sole discretion, to use, transcribe, publish reproduce, distribute, sell (as part of an ABA publication) or display the entry, alone or in conjunction with other materials; (3) the right to edit the essay to conform to the publication’s standards of style, technological requirements, language, grammar and punctuation, provided the meaning of the essay is not materially altered; and (4) the non-exclusive worldwide right to use the winner’s name and likeness in connection with this Competition without further compensation.

**LAWS AND REGULATIONS:** This Competition is governed by U.S. law and all relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. By entering, all participants agree that the competition shall be governed by the laws of the State of Illinois, that the courts of Illinois shall have exclusive jurisdiction, and that Cook County, Illinois shall be the venue for any dispute or litigation relating to or arising from the Competition. **Void where prohibited by law.**

**CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION:** By participating, each entrant agrees to these Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor, and releases and discharges the ABA, subsidiary and affiliated entities, and each of their respective officers, directors, members, employees, independent contractors, agents, representatives, successors and assigns (collectively “Sponsor”) from any and all liability whatsoever in connection with this promotion, including without limitation legal claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages, demands or actions of any kind (including without limitation personal injuries, death, damage to, loss or destruction of property, rights of publicity or privacy, defamation, or portrayal in a false light) (collectively “Claims”). Except where prohibited, acceptance of a prize constitutes a release by any winner of the Sponsor of any and all Claims in connection with the administration of this promotion and the use, misuse or possession of any prize. All entries become the property of Sponsor and will not be acknowledged or returned. Sponsor is not responsible for errors or for lost, late, or misdirected mail or email, or telecommunication or hardware or software failures, including by reason of any bug or computer virus or other failure. Sponsor may cancel, modify or terminate the promotion if it is not capable of completion as planned, including by reason of infection by computer virus, tampering, unauthorized intervention, force majeure or technical difficulties of any kind.

**OPT-OUT OPTION:** Any individual may elect to opt out of receiving future contest mailings by calling the ABA Service Center at 800-285-2221.

**PRIVACY POLICY/DATA COLLECTION:** Information provided by entrants in connection with this sweepstakes is subject to Sponsor’s privacy policy, available at http://www.americanbar.org/utility/privacy.html

**SPONSOR:** American Bar Association Section of Public Contract Law