



ABA Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law 2017 Law Student Writing Contest

Contest Rules

Goals: The goal of the American Bar Association (ABA or Sponsor) Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Student Writing Contest (Contest) is to encourage and reward law student writings on real property, trust and estate law subjects of general and current interest. As part of this effort, the ABA will sponsor the Contest, which invites law school students to submit to the ABA Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law (Section), original essays on a current topic dealing with real property, trust and estate law. The essay contest is designed to attract students to the real property, trust and estate law field, and to strongly encourage scholarships in these areas.

Who May Enter: Open to any law school student in good standing, over the age of 18, who, as of the date of entry is currently attending or who during the semester immediately preceding the deadline did attend, an ABA-accredited law school within the United States and its possessions, and who is a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States. Officers, employees, and agents of the ABA and their immediate family or household members are not eligible to enter or win.

Deadline: Entries must be received by the Section, in accordance with the specifications detailed below, no later than **June 30, 2017, 11:59 pm Central Time**.

Essay Topic: To enter, submit an essay on a current topic dealing with real property, trust and estate law. "Real property, trust and estate law" is a broad category containing numerous practice disciplines. Without attempting to define the area precisely, the subject is intended to include matters within law school curricula in courses entitled: Property; Estate and Gift Tax; Wills and Decedents' Estates; Real Estate Development; Environmental Law; Land Use Planning; Federal Taxation; Real Estate Finance; Secured Transactions; Debtors and Creditors; Employee Benefit Plans; Planning, Drafting and Negotiating Commercial Transactions; Taxation and Regulation of Non-Profit Organizations; Business Succession Planning; Life Insurance and Other Insurance Products; Trusts and Trust Law; Wealth Management; Fiduciary Income Taxation; Estate Planning; and Probate and Estate Administration. The Section will interpret the scope of the subject broadly to ensure that the Contest affords the greatest degree of flexibility in writing on these subject areas. *Entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of national interest*; entries that address principally the law of a single state will be considered, but will rarely be recommended for publication. Entrants must submit their own original essay. If the winning essay is found not to be an original it will be disqualified and a new winner will be selected.

Submission Procedures: Entries must be submitted electronically in PDF format, as an attachment to an email message to monica.larys@americanbar.org with the subject line, "Writing Contest Entry". PLEASE NOTE: The entrant's name is not to be on any page of the submitted essay (including the title page). In addition to the essay, each entrant must complete and submit

an official entry form (Entry Form) published by the ABA that will provide the title of his or her essay and date, the entrant's printed name and signature, law school, year of expected graduation, and permanent and temporary addresses and telephone numbers. Forms that require signatures should be printed, signed, scanned and then attached to the email message which submits the writing contest entry.

Format: Essays must be formatted for standard, 8-1/2 x 11 inch paper, double spaced, sent in PDF format. All margins must be one-inch. Essays must not exceed 50 pages of double-spaced typed text, including footnotes. Essays must use Times New Roman font. Only one essay is to be submitted for each entrant. Entrants must submit their essays with a title page included. The title page should contain only the essay's title. The title page shall not count towards the page limit.

Entrants should write essays in traditional law review style, presenting a scholarly discussion with full citation to authority in footnotes. Lengthy lists and outlines normally are not appropriate within the text of an essay; however, they may be included as appendices to a textual discussion. Appendices do not count towards page limits. For example, if the law of all states on a subject is surveyed, the essay may compare analytically how and why the law differs between jurisdictions. A listing of the law by jurisdiction within the body of the essay would generally not be appropriate. If such a listing of the law by jurisdiction would be of particular value to the reader, it may be included in an appendix to the essay. Entrants should write essays in the active voice and in the third person. Essays should conform to *The Bluebook-A Uniform System of Citation* and to the *Texas Law Review Manual on Style*. Entrants who do not have access to these books should conform generally to William Strunk, Jr. & E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*. PLEASE NOTE: The entrant's name is not to be on any page of the submitted essay. Entrants' identities will not be known to the judges.

Prizes: The first-place winner will receive \$2,500 cash, a one-year free membership in the Section, and approved round-trip airfare and weekend accommodation expenses not to exceed \$1000 to attend the Section's Fall Leadership Meeting, October 12-14, 2017 in Monterey, CA. The first-place winner will also be announced in an upcoming issue of *Probate & Property*, the Section's magazine, and *RPTE eReport*, the Section's electronic newsletter. The second-place winner will receive \$1,500 cash, one-year free membership in the Section, and will be announced in *Probate & Property* and *eReport*. The third-place winner will receive \$1,000 cash, one-year membership in the Section, and will be announced in *Probate & Property* and *eReport*. Winner will be required to submit a completed W-9, affidavit of eligibility, tax acknowledgment and liability release for tax purposes as a condition to receiving the cash prize. All forms must be completed and returned via email to Monica Larys at monica.larys@americanbar.org within ten (10) business days of receipt, or prizes will be considered forfeited and another winner may be named. The decision of the Sponsor is final. No substitutions for prizes will be permitted, except at the sponsor's discretion, in which case a prize of equal or greater value will be substituted. Any taxes are the responsibility of the winners. Winners will receive a 1099-Misc for the full fair market value of the prize, including travel. Only one winner allowed per family or household. Duplicate prizes will be awarded in the event of a tie. The contest judges seek to recognize entries of distinction. Accordingly, all prizes may not be awarded. At the discretion of the judges, one or more winning essays may be forwarded to the editors of *Real Property, Trust and Estate Journal* to be considered for publication in an

upcoming issue. If selected for publication, winner will be required to sign the standard ABA copyright agreement warranting the entry's originality and granting the ABA first publication rights. Please note: the ABA must have the first right of publication of the selected essay.

Conditions of Participation: By participating in the Contest, each entrant agrees to these Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor and releases and discharges the Sponsor, including but not limited to the ABA, subsidiary and affiliated entities, and each of their respective officers, directors, members, employees, independent contractors, agents, representatives, successors and assigns (collectively, Released Parties) from any and all liability whatsoever in connection with this Contest, 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 Released Parties of any and all Claims in connection with the administration of this promotion and the use, misuse or possession of any prize. All entries submitted to the ABA become the property of the ABA and will not be returned; however, entrants retain copyright to their submission. Entrants must not submit their articles for publication elsewhere prior to August 1, 2016. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the sole responsibility of the entrant. 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.

The entrant's signature on the required Entry Form submitted with the essay verifies: (1) that the entrant has read the Contest rules and accepts the conditions stated; (2) that the essay is written by the entrant; (3) that the entrant releases the ABA from all liability; and (4) that, if chosen as a winner, the entrant releases the use of his or her essay and name for publication in any medium and for editorial, advertising, and promotional usage, without compensation, in connection with the promotion by the ABA of this and succeeding essay contests sponsored by the ABA. Entrants must also submit the requisite publication release form attached to the official entry form. If the essay title page, official Entry Form, and the required release forms are not all fully completed, signed, and submitted with any entry, the entry will be disqualified. Proper submission of all required forms constitutes acceptance of all conditions set forth in these rules.

TN Residents Only: The entry form for Tennessee residents will exclude the requirement that the entrants allow the use of their names in any medium, and for editorial, advertising, and promotional usage, without compensation, in connection with the promotion by the ABA of this and succeeding essay contests sponsored by the ABA.

License/ Grant of Rights: By entering, the winning entrant consents to the publication of her/his entry by the ABA, understands that such publication is not guaranteed, and grants 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 (unless previously published in a law student publication and disclosed at the time of entry pursuant to these rules); (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 the essay or this Contest, in each case, without further compensation. Additionally, the winning entrant must execute a separate publication agreement giving the ABA the publication rights enumerated above and the right to use the article for any other purpose related to the ABA mission. If the winner fails to sign the agreement within 30 calendar days of receipt, the prize will be considered forfeited and another winner may be named. Please direct any questions about the contest to the Section Director at robin.roy@americanbar.org.

Odds of Winning: Chances of winning may vary depending on the number of entries. However, Sponsor reserves the right not to award any prize if the judges determine that no entries are of sufficient quality to merit selection that year.

Judging, Selection, and Notification of Winners: The essays will be judged on the basis of research and analysis, choice of topic, writing style, originality, and contribution to the literature available on the topic. Winners will be selected in August 2017, by a panel of judges that will include academics and practitioners appointed at the discretion of the Section's Publications Committee. The decision of the judges shall be final. The Section will attempt to notify all winners by email no later than September 30. If a potential winner does not respond within thirty days after ABA's first attempt to contact him or her, or if the contact is returned as non-deliverable, the potential winner forfeits all rights to be named as winner or receive a prize, and an alternate winner may be chosen. The Section will announce the awards in the *eReport* and *Probate & Property* prior to November, 2017. The Section reserves the right not to award a prize if, in the judgment of the Section's Publications Committee and/or the judges, no entry meets these conditions. The decision of the Publication Committee and the judges is final.

Restrictions: Void where prohibited. Only previously unpublished essays are eligible. Essays prepared for law school credit are eligible provided they are the entrant's original work. Each entry shall be the original work of a single individual. Jointly authored essays are not acceptable. Although the entrant may obtain some guidance from others, the work must be that of the entrant. The ideas and work reflected by each essay must be the entrant's own. The entrant must perform all of the key tasks of identifying the topic, researching it, analyzing it, formulating positions and arguments, and writing and revising the essay. The entrant may inform another of the entrant's progress in performing these tasks, and accept a reasonable amount of responsive advice. For example, the entrant may obtain a professor's opinion that a proposed topic is a good choice, that a detailed outline should be reorganized or that a first draft unwisely omits to cover a subtopic or to raise and respond to criticisms of the entrant's thesis. The entrant must limit the amount of such advice sought or received, so that the final essay truly reflects the entrant's own ideas and work, not another's. Section officers and Council members, staff, and the panel of judges shall not participate in this process. The ABA gives no guarantee that there will be winner(s).

Laws and Regulations: This Contest is governed by U.S. law and all relevant federal, state, and

local laws and regulations apply. By entering, all participants agree that the Contest 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 Contest. Void where prohibited by law.

Opt-Out Option: Any individual may elect to opt out of receiving future contest or competition mailings from the ABA by calling the ABA Service Center at 800-285-2221.

Privacy Policy/Data Collection: Information provided by entrants in connection with this Contest is subject to the ABA's privacy policy, available at <http://www.americanbar.org/utility/privacy.html>

Sponsor: The ABA Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law, 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL. 60654 Phone: [312.988.5000], <http://www.americanbar.org>