



American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security

2009 National Security Law Student Writing Competition

“Redefining Liberty in the 21st Century”

Topic: 2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, regarded by many as our nation’s greatest and most eloquent president. Lincoln, who devoted much of his adult life to the practice of law, was the quintessential American lawyer-president. Lincoln’s “Legacy of Liberty” lives on today. But, few remember that during the early days of the civil war, it was Lincoln who suspended citizen’s habeas corpus rights and had begun limited military arrests in an effort to keep Maryland from seceding from the union. The resulting clash between the administration, civilian courts and military leaders during that time stirred great public debate and established case law regarding war time executive powers that remained in effect for over 140 years. This year’s topic: *Redefining Liberty in the 21st Century*, seeks to encourage scholarly debate regarding current issues related to detaining and prosecuting terrorists; the impact of the nation’s immigration policy on National Security; the status of international treaties and their impact on National Security; as well as the many issues related to the area of surveillance and intelligence gathering. **Students are encouraged to consider the full range of topics related to “Liberty.” All papers should include an analysis of the selected topic/issue and suggestions for reform.**

Eligibility: The competition is open to all students attending an ABA accredited law school at the time their entry is submitted. Only original and previously unpublished papers are eligible. Papers prepared for law school credit are eligible provided they are original work. Jointly authored papers are not eligible. Entrants can have a faculty member or practicing lawyer review and critique their work, but the submission must be the student’s own work product. The name of the reviewing professor or lawyer must be noted on the entry. Committee members, staff, and selection committee members shall not participate in the contest or review process. Only one essay may be submitted per entrant.

Format: Essays **may not** exceed 4,000 words, including title, citations, and any footnotes. Essays over 4,000 words will be rejected. The text of the essay must be double-spaced, with twelve-point font Times New Roman font and one-inch margins. Entries should reflect the style of ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security’s *National Security Law Report* articles rather than law review style. Entrants are encouraged to review past copies of the Report available at <http://www.abanet.org/natsecurity> prior to drafting their submissions. Citations must be embedded in text not footnote or endnotes. Citations must conform with the Court Documents and Legal Memoranda style (Bluepages) of *The Bluebook: Uniform System of Citation*.

Entry Procedure: Submissions must be postmarked no later than August 15, 2009 and mailed to: American Bar Association, Standing Committee on Law and National Security, 740 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005; or sent via email to hmcMahon@staff.abanet.org. Winner will be notified by **September 25, 2009**.

Each submission must include a **separate cover page** with the entrant's name, law school, year of study, mailing and email address, and phone number. Following the cover page, the contestant must include an executive summary, no more than 200 words, single spaced, providing a brief overview of their paper. The contestant's name and other identifying markings, such as school name, **may not** appear on any copy of the submitted essay or the executive summary.

By submitting an entry in this contest, the entrant grants the ABA and the ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security permission to edit and publish the entry in the Committee's *National Security Law Report*. Please direct any questions about the contest to the Committee Staff Director at hmcMahon@staff.abanet.org.

Judging: The winning entry will contain an original analysis of a national security law issue that is substantively accurate and persuasive, supported by citations. The entries will be judged anonymously by members of the ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security.

Prize: The winner will receive a cash prize and free registration to the November 2009 Annual Review of the Field of National Security Law Conference, held in Washington, DC. Registration for the conference will include reimbursement for travel, housing, and per diem up to **\$500**. Additionally, an edited version of the winning article will be published in the *National Security Law Report*. Winner must be present at the Annual Review Conference, which will be held likely the second week in November, to receive the award.