



**ABA Section of International Law 2012-2013
Rona R. Mears Student Writing Competition & Scholarship Awards**

The American Bar Association Section of International Law is proudly sponsoring a student writing competition to encourage law student interest and participation in the practice of International Law and the Section.

I. Competition Guidelines

Eligible contestants are students enrolled at a U.S. law school or a student enrolled in a law study program outside of the U.S. This competition is only open to students who are members of the ABA Section of International Law.

The paper should be essay quality and must not exceed 2,500 words and should not contain footnotes or endnotes. Essays not adhering to these guidelines will not be accepted for consideration. Only original and previously unpublished papers are eligible. Papers prepared for law school credit are eligible, provided they are original works. Joint authored papers 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 shall not participate in the contest or review/critique contestant entries prior to submission.

All submissions should be received electronically by Friday, **February 1, 2013** by Director of Membership Angela Benson at angela.benson@americanbar.org.

2. Topic of Essay

In Spring 2013, the US Supreme Court is likely to issue its decision on **Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum**, 621 F. 3d 111 (2d Cir. 2010), *cert. granted*, 80 U.S.L.W. 3237 (U.S. Oct. 17, 2011) (No. 10-1491), involving a claim under Alien Tort Statute, which allows US courts to recognize cause of action for violation of the law of nations occurring within the territory of a sovereign nation other than the US. Here is your chance to weigh in as an amicus curiae on how the court should rule.

Associate Justice Antonin Scalia will present the winner(s) at a US Supreme Court evening reception on Thursday, April 25, 2013 during the ABA International Section Spring 2013 Meeting.

3. Competition Awards

The prizes are as follows:

The winning essay will be published in a Section Publication. Two \$1,000 cash prizes or and iPad and accessories – For First and Second Place Winners. Winners will receive free meeting registration to the Spring Meeting, coach airfare (21 day advance purchase) and lodging up to \$1,000. Travel costs will be reimbursed after the Spring Meeting. Any taxes due on cash awards are the responsibility of the winners.

4. Judging

The papers will be judged on an original analysis of the topic that is persuasive and accurate, supported by citations within the body of the essay, if necessary and clearly written. Judging will be by a committee appointed by the Membership Committee that will select the winning submission. 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 after the Committee selection process is complete.

5. Reproduction

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