

2014-2015 Rona R. Mears Writing Competition & Scholarship Awards Guidelines

1. 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 submission should be essay quality and must not exceed 2,500 words and should not contain footnotes or endnotes. Submissions must be in English and those not adhering to these guidelines will not be accepted for consideration. Only original and previously unpublished material is eligible.

Submissions prepared for law school credit are eligible, provided they are original works. Joint authored submissions 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 cannot participate in the contest or review/critique contestant entries prior to submission.

All submissions should be received electronically by Friday, March 20, 2015 by Director of Membership Angela Benson at angela.benson@americanbar.org.

2. Topic of Essay

June 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of King John's signing the Magna Carta. In America, its principles heavily influenced the drafters of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. But what about international law? Your topic is to research and analyze at least one key area in which the Magna Carta has had an important effect on either domestic or international law.

4. Competition Awards

The winning submission will receive:

- Cash prize of \$2,500
- Travel stipend of \$1,500 and free meeting registration to the Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C., April 28 – May 2, 2015.

5. Judging

The submissions 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 prizes if the Committee determines that no entry is of sufficient quality to merit recognition. ABA staff will notify the winners after the Committee selection process is complete.

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