

*2019 Water Resources Law Student Writing Competition
Now Accepting Entries!*



We are pleased to announce the 2019 Water Resources Law Writing Competition is now open. Entries for the Competition should demonstrate original thought on a question of legal and/or policy significance on any issue related to water resources law. This would include, but not be limited to, issues under the federal Clean Water Act, state water laws, or any relevant case law relating to either federal or state water law issues. Submissions may advocate a position, educate the reader, or analyze one or more cases. **The first place winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, the second place winner will receive a \$750 cash prize, and the third place winner will receive a \$500 cash prize.**

All entries must be submitted by **May 31, 2019**. Please see the [official rules](#) for more information about this competition.

American Bar Association
Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources
2019 Law Student Writing Competition: Water Resources Law (“Competition”)

Official Rules

1. **DESCRIPTION:** This Competition is sponsored by Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (“Section”) of the American Bar Association (“ABA”), 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654 (the “Sponsor”). The goal of the Competition is to encourage law students to become involved in the Section. It is also intended to attract students to the practice of water resources law and to encourage scholarship in this field. Each entrant must follow the rules of the competition detailed herein.
2. **ELIGIBILITY:** The Competition is open to any law student who, at the time of entry, (1) is enrolled in an ABA-accredited law school during the academic year of the competition, (2) is a legal resident of the United States, and (3) is at least 18 years old. Directors, officers, and employees of the ABA and their immediate family or household members are not eligible.
3. **TOPIC:** Entries for the Competition should demonstrate original thought on a question of legal and/or policy significance on any issue related to water resources law. This would include, but not be limited to, issues under the federal Clean Water Act, state water laws, or any relevant case law relating to either federal or state water law issues. Submissions may advocate a position, educate the reader, or analyze one or more cases. The decision of whether a particular essay qualifies as to subject matter is entirely within the discretion of the Section.
4. **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** All submissions must be the original, unpublished work of the entrant. Any relevant article or essay may be submitted for the competition, including writing submitted for academic credit. Submissions must not have been previously published in any media. Only one essay, per Competition, may be submitted by each entrant. Failure to submit an original essay will result in disqualification and may result in selection of a new winner.
 - a. Entries must be submitted in Word format on 8-1/2 x 11 inch paper format, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, 12-point type (10-point for footnotes, single-spaced, which must be in Bluebook format), and must not exceed 10 pages, excluding footnotes. Each page must have a header including the title of the paper and a page number. **For anonymous evaluation of the entries, no information that could identify the author should appear anywhere in the body of the paper, including in the header, footer or, document properties.**
 - b. Entries shall also include a separate cover sheet in a separate electronic word file. The following information shall be presented on the cover sheet: competition title; essay title; author’s name; law school; expected year of graduation from law school; author’s mailing address; author’s telephone number; author’s email address.
 - c. Entries and coversheets must be submitted electronically via email in two separate Word files as email attachments to “Kevin.Gordon@americanbar.org” with the subject line: “Law Student Writing Competition: Water Resources Law” by **Friday, May 31, 2019, 11:59 p.m. (central)**. The Sponsor is not responsible for errors or for lost, late, or misdirected email, or telecommunication or hardware or software failures, including by reason of any bug or computer virus or other failure.
 - d. Entrants should write essays in traditional law review style, presenting a scholarly discussion with full citation to authority in footnotes. Essays should conform to the current edition of The Bluebook—A Uniform System of Citation.

- e. Participants acknowledge that ABA will not return any submitted essay entries. All participants retain full copyright to their entries except that winners are required to license certain rights to the ABA (see paragraph 7 below) as a condition of entry.
5. **SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS:** The format of this competition has been selected to stimulate creativity of thought and research. Entries will be judged based on the following criteria related to the water resources legal and/or policy issue topic of the paper: (1) writing quality; (2) analysis and legal reasoning; (3) originality; (4) quality and use of research; and (5) compliance with these Official Rules. The entries will be judged anonymously by a committee selected by members of the Section’s Water Resources Committee (“Committee”). Winning selections will be made by the Committee. The Section Director will notify the winners by email of their selection no later than July 15, 2019. The Section reserves the right not to award any prizes if it is determined that no entries are of sufficient quality to merit selection that year. **If a potential winner does not respond within ten (10) business 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.**
6. **PRIZES:** **The first place winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, the second place winner will receive a \$750 cash prize, and the third place winner will receive a \$500 cash prize.** The winners will be announced in the Section’s, as well as the Committee’s, monthly electronic newsletter, as well as on the Section and Committee websites. At the sole discretion of the Sponsor, abstracts and/or excerpts of the winning essays may be published on the Committee website or another Committee publication. The Sponsor may substitute a prize of equal or greater value in its sole discretion. Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be substituted by the winner. Winners will be solely responsible for reporting and payment of all taxes (federal, state, local or other) on prizes. Winners will be required to complete a W-9, affidavit of eligibility, tax acknowledgment and liability release for tax purposes. All forms must be completed and returned via email to Kevin Gordon at Kevin.Gordon@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, including the Committee, is final. If selected for publication, winner will be required to sign a standard publication agreement giving the ABA the right of first publication. Please note: the ABA must have the first right of publication of the selected essay.
7. **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; (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 Competition, 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 ten (10) business days of receipt, the prize will be considered forfeited and another winner may be named.
8. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:** Entries must be submitted by e-mail on or before **Friday, May 31, 2019, by 11:59 p.m. (central).**

9. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:** For a list of prize winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope by July 31, 2019 to the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, American Bar Association, 321 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60654.
10. **ODDS OF WINNING:** Chances of winning may vary depending on the number of entries. However, the 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.
11. **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 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.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **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>.
15. **SPONSOR:** American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, 321 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60654.