

**American Bar Association
Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources
2024 Law Student Writing Competition (“Competition”)**

Official Rules

1. **DESCRIPTION**: This Competition (“Competition”) is sponsored by the 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 raise awareness of and foster dialogue regarding legal issues related to environmental, energy, and natural resources law and encourage scholarship in these fields. 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. **TOPICS**: Entries for the Competition should demonstrate original thought on a question of legal and/or policy significance relating to one of the following topics: **(1) Air, Water, and Food, (2) Biodiversity, (3) Energy Law, (4) Indigenous Law, (5) Recycling**. Each entrant must select one of the five competition topics to write on. 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 **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**: All submissions must be the original, unpublished work of the entrant.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 may be submitted to the Competition by each entrant. Failure to submit an original essay will result in disqualification and may result in selection of a new winner. The ABA prohibits the use of all generative artificial intelligence, including large language models, to create any portion of a contestant’s written submission for this competition whether in the research, writing, or editing phase. Generative AI in this context includes, but is not limited to, OpenAI’s “GPT” series, BLOOM, Jasper, BERT, Galactica, and Lex. Note that for these purposes, AI does not include basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references, etc. By submitting an entry, contestants are affirming that they did not utilize AI in the preparation of their written work product. The ABA reserves the right to screen submissions for use of AI through an AI detector. Contestants utilizing AI to generate their work product in whole or in part will be disqualified. If it is determined after the winner is announced and the prize is awarded that the winning contestant utilized AI to generate the written submission in whole or in part, then the contestant will forfeit the winning designation and shall return the prize. A new winner will then be selected.
 - 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 20 pages, including 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 topic; essay title; author's name; 1-2 sentence professional biography; law school; expected year of graduation from law school; mailing address; and email address.
 - c. Entries and coversheets must be submitted electronically in two separate word files, as an email attachment. Entries must be submitted via email to Kevin.Gordon@americanbar.org with the subject line: “**SEER Law Student Writing Competition: [*enter one of the five topic names*],” by Friday, May 31, 2024, 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 the winner is required to license certain rights to the ABA (see paragraph 7 below) as a condition of entry.
5. **SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF WINNER:** The format of this Competition has been selected to stimulate creativity of thought and research. Entries will be judged based on the following criteria: (1) writing quality; (2) analysis and legal reasoning; (3) originality; (4) quality and use of research; (5) the entry’s relevance to the topic; and (6) compliance with these Rules. The entries will be judged anonymously by a committee selected by leaders of the Section’s substantive committee(s) (“Committee”). Winning selections will be made by the Committee. The Section staff will notify the winner by email of their selection no later than July 31, 2024. 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 them, 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 in each of the five topic categories will receive a \$1,000 cash prize. The winners will be announced on the Section’s website. At the sole discretion of the Sponsor, the winning essay may be posted on the Section website. 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 winners. 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, winners will be required to sign a standard publication agreement.
7. **LICENSE/GRANT OF RIGHTS:** By entering, the winning entrants consent to the publication of their entry by the ABA; understand that such publication is not guaranteed; and grant the ABA the following rights: (1) the non-exclusive worldwide right of 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 entrants may be asked to execute a separate publication agreement giving the ABA the publication rights enumerated above and the right to use the essay for any other purpose related to the ABA mission. If the winners fails to sign the agreement within ten (10) business days of receipt, their prize will be considered forfeited and another winner may be named in their place. By entering, entrants warrant that their entry is original and not subject to any third-party copyright, that publication of the entry will not libel anyone or infringe on or invade the rights of others and that the entry has not been published elsewhere in whole or in part.

8. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:** Entries must be submitted by email on or before **Friday, May 31, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. (central)**.
9. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNER:** For a list of prize winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope by July 31, 2024 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, 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