

American Bar Association  
Section of Public Contract Law  
**2017 Writing Competition Rules**

- (1) The competition will be conducted in two divisions. Each division will be judged separately, and separate prizes will be awarded to the winners of each division.
  - (a) Division I is open to (i) candidates for a J.D. degree attending law schools within the United States and its possessions as of September 30, 2017, and (ii) recipients of a J.D. degree in 2017 from a law school within the United States and its possessions.
  - (b) Division II is open to (i) lawyers under the age of 36 years or admitted to practice less than five years as of September 30, 2017, (ii) LL.M candidates attending law schools within the United States and its possessions as of September 30, 2017, and (iii) LL.M graduates who attended law schools within the United States and its possessions and received their LL.M degree after September 30, 2016.
- (2) To be eligible to participate, as of September 30, 2017, entrants must be:
  - (a) 21 or over;
  - (b) U.S. citizens or permanent legal residents of the United States; and
  - (c) Current members in good standing of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Public Contract Law. Membership information may be obtained by contacting Patty Brennan at 312-988-5623, [patty.brennan@americanbar.org](mailto:patty.brennan@americanbar.org).
- (3) Papers should address a topical issue of interest to the public contract and grant law community.
- (4) Unpublished papers prepared for law school credit are eligible for entry in the competition. Papers prepared for law school credit that have been submitted to or published by the *Public Contract Law Journal* are also eligible for the competition. Papers that have been published in media other than the *Public Contract Law Journal* prior to September 30, 2017 are not eligible for the competition. Papers submitted for publication in media other than the *Public Contract Law Journal* are not eligible for the competition, unless the other publication agrees that the *Public Contract Law Journal* shall have the right of first publication of the winning essay.
- (5) Eligibility determinations will be made by the editorial board of the *Public Contract Law Journal* and the ABA Section of Public Contract Law; all decisions regarding eligibility are final.
- (6) Joint papers are not acceptable.
- (7) Multiple submissions are acceptable; however, each author will only be eligible for one award.
- (8) All authors must certify (a) that the paper submitted is the author's work product without substantial editing by others, and (b) that the paper submitted has not been published in media other than the *Public Contract Law Journal*. If the author has submitted the paper for publication anywhere other than the *Public Contract Law Journal* prior to September 30, 2017, the application must inform the ABA Section of Public Contract Law-at the time of initial submission to the competition.
- (9) Papers must be 8-1/2" x 11", double-spaced, and typed in 12-point font, including cited material and footnotes.
- (10) Papers must include a brief (no more than 350 words) abstract.

- (11) Papers shall conform to the most recent edition of *The Bluebook* and the *Public Contract Law Journal Style Guide* (available at <http://pclj.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/3/files/2014/01/2013-2014-PCLJ-Style-Guide.pdf>).
- (12) All papers must provide the following information on the title page: title; author's name; address; telephone number; and ABA membership number.
  - (a) In addition to the above-listed information, Division I entries must provide the following information: (i) law school, and (ii) author's year in school or date of graduation.
  - (b) In addition to the above-listed information, Division II entries must provide the following information: (i) author's age or years of practice, (ii) law school, and (iii) date of anticipated receipt of an LL.M. degree or date the author's LL.M. degree was received.
- (13) Copies must be submitted by e-mail in Word format to the following address: Patty Brennan, Director, Section of Public Contract Law, [patty.brennan@americanbar.org](mailto:patty.brennan@americanbar.org).
- (14) All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time Zone on September 30, 2017.
- (15) The entries will be judged by an impartial panel of judges made up of members of the *Public Contract Law Journal* practitioner editorial board. Entries will be judged based on the overall quality of the paper, including clarity of the theme or thesis presented, significance of the topic to the field, originality and creativity of topic treatment, quality of analysis, quality of research and authority provided, and technical quality of writing, including organization, grammar, syntax and form.
- (16) Winners will be selected and notified by January 15, 2017. The first-place winner in each division will receive an award of \$5,000; second place in each division will receive an award of \$2,500; and third place in each division will receive an award of \$1,000. As a condition of receiving any cash award, winners must submit a completed W-9. Winners are responsible for all taxes associated with receiving an award.
- (17) Judges may withhold some or all of the awards if the submissions are not of notable quality. In the event of a tie for first place, authors of the top submissions will split the \$7,500 total prize amount allotted to first and second places. In the event of a tie for second place, the authors will split the \$3,500 total prize amount allotted to second and third places.
- (18) Winning entries will be considered for publication in the *Public Contract Law Journal*, and selected competitors may be invited to present their papers during the ABA Section of Public Contract Law's annual Federal Procurement Institute; however, publication and presentation decisions are made independent of the writing competition and there is no guarantee that a winning entry will be published or selected for presentation.

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