



## **American Agricultural Law Association – Modern Agricultural Legal Issues Essay Contest**

**Entry Deadline: Wednesday, October 1, 2025**

**Awards for the top winners include: (1) Cash prize; (2) Registration fee covered for AALA Annual Educational Symposium in Memphis, Tennessee; and (3) Article published in the AALA Symposium Edition of the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law. All participants are strongly encouraged to attend the AALA Symposium, November 6–7, 2025.**

### **Description**

The goal of the Modern Agricultural Legal Issues Essay Contest is to encourage law students to become involved in the American Agricultural Law Association (AALA) and to encourage scholarship and learning in the diverse field of agricultural law. Each entrant must follow the rules of the competition detailed herein.

### **Topic**

The entry must discuss a modern and relevant topic related to agricultural law.

### **Eligibility**

The competition is open to law students who are, at the time of entry, (a) enrolled in an ABA-accredited law school, (b) pursuing a J.D. degree; and (c) at least 18 years old.

### **Format**

Submissions must be in portable document format (PDF). The text of the essay must be double-spaced, in twelve-point font, with one-inch margins; footnotes should be single-spaced, also in twelve-point font and with one-inch margins. Citations may be embedded in text or set out in footnotes and should conform to the current edition of the Uniform System of Citation (Bluebook). Submissions may not exceed 10,000 total words or 40 pages, whichever is shorter, including footnotes, but not including the title page and table of contents. Submissions may include papers submitted for a law school course, law review notes and comments, or pieces specifically written for the competition. If submitted for publication in a law student publication (such as a law review or journal) and not yet published, the cover page must indicate to which publication the work was submitted. If the work has been published, it is not eligible for this Competition, although published work can be submitted to the AALA's Awards Committee ([info@aglaw-assn.org](mailto:info@aglaw-assn.org)) for the Student Scholarship Award instead. Essays must be the work of the submitting student without substantial editorial input from others. Co-authored papers are ineligible. Failure to submit an original essay will result in disqualification and may result in the selection of a new winner. Only one essay may be submitted per entrant.

## Entry Procedure

There is no entry form of any kind. Entrant must submit the two files listed below to the AALA office via email at [info@aglaw-assn.org](mailto:info@aglaw-assn.org). The first file should be a cover page only with contestant information, including the paper's title, entrant's name, law school, year or expected graduation, mailing and email addresses, and phone number. If the essay was previously submitted for publication to a law student publication and not yet published, the cover page should also indicate to which publication the work was submitted. If the work has been published, it is not eligible for this Competition, although published work can be submitted to the AALA's Awards Committee ([info@aglaw-assn.org](mailto:info@aglaw-assn.org)) for the Student Scholarship Award instead. The second file should be the paper with a cover page listing the title only; the contestant's name and other identifying information, such as school name, MAY NOT appear on any page within this file. **ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME ON OCTOBER 1, 2025.** The selection committee administrator will assign a random number to each entry. Neither the contestant's identity nor law school will be known to the selection committee. The AALA is not responsible for errors or for lost, late, or misdirected email or telecommunication, hardware, or software failures, including by reason of any bug or computer virus or other failure.

## Judging

The entries will be judged anonymously by a selection committee made up of representatives from the National Ag Law Center and/or AALA members. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Creativity and clarity of the proposal or thesis
- Organization
- Quality of the analysis and research
- Grammar, syntax, and form

Decisions of the AALA (including the committee judging the entries) are final. The winning entry will be notified by email by October 14, 2025, 11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time. The winner must acknowledge and confirm agreement to the terms and conditions of winning the competition no later than October 21, 2025, 11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time, after which prizes will be forfeited and another winner may be selected.

## Prize

The AALA 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, which will include the value of any accommodations and airfare. The decision of the AALA, including the judging committee, is final.

## Entry Deadline

All entries must be emailed by **5:00 PM Central Daylight Time on October 1, 2025.**

## **Odds of Winning**

Chances of winning may vary depending on the number of entries. However, AALA reserves the right not to award any prize if the judges determine that no entries are of sufficient quality to merit selection that year.

## **Laws and Regulations**

This Competition is governed by U.S. law and all relevant and applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. By entering, all participants agree that the Competition shall be governed by the laws of the State of Kansas, that the courts of Kansas shall have exclusive jurisdiction, and shall be the venue for any dispute or litigation relating to or arising from the Competition. Void where prohibited by law.

## **Conditions of Participation**

By participating, each entrant agrees to these Official Rules and the decisions of the AALA and releases and discharges the AALA and any affiliated entities, and each of their respective officers, directors, members, employees, independent contractors, agents, representatives, successors and assigns (collectively "Released Parties") from any and all liability whatsoever in connection with this Competition, 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 Released Parties of any and all Claims in connection with the administration of this promotion and the use, misuse, or possession of any prize. All entries submitted to the AALA become the property of the AALA and will not be returned; however, entrants who do not win first-place may submit their entries for publication elsewhere. Entrants must not submit their articles for publication elsewhere prior to November 10, 2025. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the sole responsibility of the entrant. Sponsor is not responsible for errors or for lost, late, or misdirected mail or email or telecommunication, 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.

## **Privacy Policy/Data Collection**

Information provided by entrants in connection with this Competition is subject to the AALA's privacy policy, available at <https://www.aglaw-assn.org/privacy>.

## **Sponsor**

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