



American Agricultural Law Association – Modern Agricultural Legal Issues Essay Contest

Entry Deadline: October 15, 2019

Awards for the top winners include: (1) Cash prize; (2) Registration fee covered for AALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC; (3) Opportunity to address AALA Annual Conference Attendees at Awards Luncheon; (4) Article published in AALA Symposium Edition of the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law; and (5) embroidered garment bag provided by the Waggoner Law Firm. The winner is strongly encouraged to attend the AALA Conference in Washington, DC, November 7-9, 2019.

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 any 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; (c) at least 18 years old, and (d) U.S. citizens.

Format

Submissions must be .pdf format. 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 previously published or submitted for publication in a law student publication (such as a law review or journal), the cover page must indicate to which publication the work was submitted and if the work was published, the publication date. 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 Caitlin Andersen via email at andersen@brownwinick.com. 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 address, and phone number. If the essay was previously submitted for publication to a law student publication, the cover page should also indicate to which publication the work was submitted, and whether the work was published, and, if so, the publication date. 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 STANDARD TIME ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.** The selection committee administrator will assign a random number to each entry. Neither the contestant's identity nor his/her 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 or 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 of 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 25, 2019, 11:59 Central Standard Time. The winner must acknowledge and confirm agreement to the terms and conditions of winning the competition no later than November 1, 2019 11:59 pm Central Standard Time, after which they forfeit the prizes 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. 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 AALA President, Amber Miller, within 15 business days of receipt, or prizes will be considered forfeited and another winner may be named. The decision of the Sponsor, including the judging committee is final.

Entry Deadline

All entries must be emailed by **5:00 pm Central Standard Time on October 15, 2019.**

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 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 Iowa, that the courts of Iowa shall have exclusive jurisdiction, and that Polk County, Iowa 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 7, 2019. 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 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.

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

American Agricultural Law Association
825 S. Kansas Ave. Suite 500
Topeka, KS 66612