

## **Legal Writing Contests**

Lists of Legal Writing Contests can be found in two locations:

1. On Professor Bowman's faculty bio page, and
2. On the bulletin board outside Professor Bowman's office, DA-208 in the Dana Administration Building.

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### **Center for Alcohol Policy 10th Annual Essay Contest**

- **Topic:** The Supreme Court has recognized "temperance" as a permissible goal of state alcohol regulation. Define temperance as it would apply in today's alcohol market place. Is it still relevant policy? Should temperance still be recognized as a permissible goal of alcohol regulation?
- **Deadline:** December 1, 2017
- **Prizes:** First prize: \$5,000; second prize: \$2,500; third prize: \$1,000
- **Website:** <http://www.CenterforAlcoholPolicy.org>

## **Companion Animal Law Writing Contest**

- **Topic:** Choose one of the following topics
  - “Companion animals have long been recognized by the law as personal property. When an owner brings suit for loss of a pet or injury to a pet, the damages are calculated under property principles, which may cap recovery at fair market value. The courts and/or legislature of several states have been willing to accept claims requesting damages beyond a pet’s market value, including for reasonable and necessary veterinary costs that are above market value and for a pet’s ‘actual value,’ which can include economic factors besides market value. A few states have allowed emotion-based claims when a pet is maliciously injured or killed, but nearly all states have rejected claims for emotional distress, pain and suffering, sentimental value, loss of companionship and other non-economic damages in negligence claims involving harm to pets. Discuss the causes of action and types of damages above with relation to companion animals. What types of situations would give rise to lawsuits over animal injuries: What are the benefits and disadvantages of allowing expanded liability in these situations? What would be the net impact on pet welfare? All points of view are welcome.”
  - OR
  - “Pet custody has become a highly dynamic area of the law. Under the traditional view, which is reflected in most state laws, companion animals are considered personal property. In recent years, some courts have started changing how they handle pet custody in family law cases, such as divorce. When a couple separates, the pet is traditionally allocated to one of its owners. It may be determinative if the pet was a gift from one of the owners to the other. In recent years, courts have been experimenting with different types of solutions, including split custody and assessing the best interests of the pet. Custody issues also arise with law enforcement, when the police or animal control take custody of a pet that has been severely neglected and is in need of immediate medical attention. Comparable issues arise when a local shelter takes custody of a pet found in the street. Discuss the relevant law surrounding pet custody, the potential limits on ownership interests in pets, the pros and cons and any potential future impacts of changing the law. All points of view are welcome.”
- **Deadline:** March 30, 2018
- **Prizes:** First prize: \$2,500; and second prize: \$500
- **Website:** linked [here](#)

## **Holocaust Remembrance Essay Award**

- **Topic:** Any topic, and concern any matter, provided only that the essay address the relationship between law and the Holocaust. Particularly welcome are essay that pursue the continuing significance of the Holocaust to law and human rights generally, and to the legal community and legal education in particular.
  - **Deadline:** July 1, 2018
  - **Award:** Best essay \$500
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Web links to other information about writing competitions:

- American Bar Association, Law Student Division—[Scholarships and Competitions](#)
- University of Richmond School of Law, [Legal Essay Contest Catalog](#)
- [Legal Writing Competitions Blog](#)

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