

# **Guidelines and Criteria for ABA Health Law Student Writing Award**

## **Introduction**

The ABA Health Law Section is pleased to announce its 8th Annual ABA Health Law Student Writing Award, a writing competition open to any law student in an ABA-accredited law school.

The Section will present an award, based on excellence of the paper, to a law student who writes a substantive paper on any aspect of health law. The award will include publication in *The Health Lawyer*; a \$500 honorarium, and airfare (at ABA rates), hotel for two nights and a \$50 per diem for two days to attend the Emerging Issues conference. A second place winner will be named if deemed appropriate. The second place winner will also be published in *The Health Lawyer*. No cash or travel award will be presented to the second place winner.

## **I. Award Criteria and Limitations**

1. Awards shall be for authorship of superior literary effort that advances and serves the interests and understanding of health law on any topic deemed emerging. Topic selection is one of the criteria judged. The author, subject and title of the paper, and the law school attended will be included in the announcement of the award.
2. There will not be more than one first place award given during any single American Bar Association year.
3. The first place award will be \$500 honorarium, airfare, room and a per diem to attend the Emerging Issues conference. If the first place recipient is unable to attend the conference, the \$500 honorarium will be the sole award. Travel is non-transferable, and no substitution(s) of individuals or cash or cash equivalents is allowed. A second place award (if awarded) is publication in *The Health Lawyer*.

## **II. Procedure**

1. The subject for this year's competition is on emerging issues in health care. The paper should be a practical examination of issues related to the topic of the student's choosing. The papers should follow the Harvard Blue Book style. Papers should be a minimum of 25 pages double-spaced and maximum of 50.
2. A Committee to adjudicate the contest will be appointed by the Section Chair by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The committee will consist of at least five members, with at least one representative from the Editorial Board of *The Health Lawyer*.

3. Nominations for the awards may be made by:
  - a. Any member of the Health Law Section;
  - b. A faculty member at any ABA-accredited law school;
  - c. Self-nomination; or
  - d. Members of the American Association of Law Schools
  - e. The current Law Student Liaison will be excluded from being nominated for the award.
  
4. No nomination will be considered unless comments from the nominator address the following points in writing:
  - a. Whether the nominated paper meets substantive criteria set by the committee in its announcement;
  - b. Whether the award, if given, would further the purpose for which this program was established; and
  - c. Special requests or information regarding presentation of the award, if approved;
  - d. Each nominator must provide a copy of his/her CV/resumé and a statement from the nominee delineating interests in health law, current involvement with the field and goals within the field.
  
5. One copy of the paper must be postmarked **or** sent via e-mail by 12:00 p.m. central on December 4, 2009.
  
6. The committee will review the papers. A preliminary review may be done by individual members of the committee depending on the number of submissions, with the final five papers being distributed to the entire committee for a final vote. At the discretion of the Chair of the committee, such vote may be taken by mail, phone conference or at a regularly scheduled committee meeting.
  
7. The winner will be notified at least forty-five days prior to the start of the Emerging Issues conference and will be announced in the *Student Lawyer*, the Law Student Division magazine, as well as in *The Health Lawyer* and on the Section web site.

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