



Virginia State Bar

Intellectual Property Section

Intellectual Property Law Student Writing Competition

Prize: \$4,000 cash and publication on the Section's website. The Virginia State Bar Intellectual Property Section has a total membership of over 1,400, including both lawyers and members of the judiciary.

The Intellectual Property Law Student Writing Competition seeks to promote academic debate and the dissemination of ideas and scholarly writing in the field of intellectual property. The competition is sponsored by the Intellectual Property Section of the Virginia State Bar, and is open to all current students in good standing at any Virginia law school, or residents of Virginia (with proof of residency) who are current students in good standing at a law school outside the state.

All articles submitted will receive consideration for publication by the Section to its membership. Student authors entering the competition thereby authorize such publication. The Section publication's editors reserve the right to make editorial revisions to the author's article.

Topic & Format

Student authors may submit any article relating to intellectual property law issues or practice. Preference may be given to topics demonstrating particular relevance to contemporary events, addressing unsettled issues of law, or presenting novel and unique perspectives. Articles must be at least 3,000 words and no more than 5,000 words (including footnotes), presented double-spaced, in at least 12-point font, with one-inch margins and numbered pages. Citations should conform to the Bluebook. Entries must be submitted electronically in either WordPerfect or MS Word format. Entries should also include the student's name, address, telephone number, law school, expected graduation date, and the following *signed* statement: "I declare under penalty of perjury that I am either a current student in good standing at a Virginia law school, or that I am a resident of Virginia who is a current student in good standing at a law school outside Virginia." The student author's inclusion of this statement in the transmittal email, together with his or her typed name between two forward slashes (i.e. /Jane M. Doe/) shall constitute a signature for the purpose of the signed statement requirement.

Deadline

All entries must be sent by email to jp Peyton@mcguirewoods.com and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. eastern standard time on Friday, February 29, 2008. For problems with transmission, please contact Janet P. Peyton, Esquire at 804-775-1166.

Judging

Entries will initially be judged by members of the Section, in their sole discretion, who will select no more than five finalists. The final judge will be the Honorable Richard Linn of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Judge Linn will select the winner, in his sole discretion, from among the finalists. Criteria for judging include:

- Subject matter relevance to intellectual property law or practice
- Quality of topic
- Quality of writing
- Originality
- Clarity of expression
- Analysis of the subject matter
- Grammar, spelling and vocabulary

The winner will be announced no earlier than May 1, 2008 and no later than May 31, 2008.

Presentation of Award

The winner will be notified by telephone and by mail and will be invited to the Section's business meeting and dinner at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Virginia State Bar in Virginia Beach on Thursday evening, June 19, 2008 for an award presentation ceremony. Hotel accommodations for Thursday night will be provided to the winner by the Section.

Other Terms & Conditions

The Section reserves the right of first refusal for publication of all articles submitted, and no article submitted as an entry in this competition may be published in any other forum until the competition has ended and the winner has been announced. After that time, the Section reserves the right of first refusal for the winning articles until such time that the Section either publishes the article or provides the author with a signed, written release. By submitting an article in this competition, the student author agrees to be bound by the rules, terms and conditions governing the competition and the award of any prizes therein. All entrants accepting prizes in this contest agree by such acceptance to permit the Section to publish their submitted articles at the discretion of the Section, and further agree to be bound by the publication agreement required by the Section for such publication. The Section reserves the right not to make an award in this competition if no entries of acceptable quality are received.