



INTERNATIONAL  
**OMBUDSMAN**  
ASSOCIATION

## **Second Annual IOA Student Writing Competition**

*Graduate and law students are invited to submit articles on the issue of how organizational ombudsmen can avoid being deemed as agents for notice.*

### **Topic**

Organizational ombuds claim that they do not serve as agents for notice for their organization. Yet simply asserting this may be insufficient to prevent a court from finding that a complaint to an ombuds put the organization on notice. In a recent case, a state court imputed notice of Title IX violations to a university after a student consulted with an ombuds with an allegation of sexual harassment. What should ombuds do to ensure that they are not deemed as agents for notice? Should the IOA Standards of Practice be revised in any respect?

### **Award**

The author of the winning article will receive a cash prize of **\$2,500** and an invitation to the IOA Annual Conference in April 2011 in **Portland, OR** to receive the award. IOA will provide registration, airfare and lodging for the conference. The winning article may also be published in the Journal of IOA.

### **Eligibility**

The competition is open to any student in good standing at any law school or graduate program in dispute resolution anywhere in the world. Authors need not be members of IOA.

### **Deadline**

Submissions are due **November 19, 2010**.



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## Rules and Additional Resources

### Rules

A committee appointed by IOA will judge submissions anonymously and select the winning article. The committee will be comprised of IOA members. Submitted articles will be judged on the following criteria: persuasiveness; organization; quality of analysis; quality of research; and quality of the writing. The committee reserves the right not to award the prize.

Articles must be in English, formatted for standard 8.5 x 11 inch paper with one-inch margins, double-spaced, 12-point type, and less than 5,000 words, including citations, following the Chicago Manual of Style. Articles must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format to [profdevelopment@ombudsassociation.org](mailto:profdevelopment@ombudsassociation.org). Each article should have a title page including the author's name, school and contact information. The author's name or other identifying information may not appear elsewhere in the submission. Submission of a manuscript authorizes IOA to edit and publish the article in Journal of IOA, although publication is not guaranteed. Submitted articles will not be returned.

Submissions must be original, unpublished work. Articles may be prepared to satisfy a course requirement or for other academic credit. Co-authored papers are eligible but the prize will be awarded to only one individual. Employees and Board Members of IOA and Professional Management Associates, LLC, and their immediate families or household members are not eligible to participate. Void where prohibited. Any taxes are the responsibility of the winner.

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*Before submitting an article, students may want to consult the following resources for more information about organizational ombudsmen. These are not intended to limit the authorities and materials that may be used in a submission.*

### International Ombudsman Association

- The mission of IOA is to advance the profession of organizational ombudsman and ensure that practitioners are able to work to the highest professional standards. [IOA Website](#), [IOA Code of Ethics](#), [IOA Standards of Practice](#)

### Journal of IOA

- The only professional periodical dedicated to issues relevant to organizational ombudsman issues. The most recent issue (Vol. 3, No. 1) includes the article written by the winner of the 2009 competition [JIOA Website](#)

### Case Law

- *Karibian v. Columbia Univ.*, 812 F. Supp 413 (S.D.N.Y. 1993)
- *Thompson v. Coca Cola Co.*, 497 F. Supp. 2d 80 (D. Mass. 2007)
- *Norden v. Samper*, 503 F. Supp. 2d 130 (D.D.C. 2007)
- *Cotrone v. Marquette Univ.*, 2007 U.S. Dist. Lexis 41930 (E.D. Wis. June 8, 2007)
- *S.S. v. Alexander*, 143 Wn. App. 75 (2008)

### Secondary Sources

- [American Bar Association Standards for the Establishment and Operation of Ombuds Offices](#)
- [IOA Guidance on ABA Standards](#)
- [A Guide for Federal Employee Ombuds](#)
- [Report for the President on the Use and Results of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government](#)
- [Charles L. Howard, \*The Organizational Ombudsman: Origins, Roles, and Operations — A Legal Guide\* \(2010\)](#)