

The Warren E. Burger Prize



Purpose

The Warren E. Burger Prize is a writing competition designed to encourage outstanding scholarship that "promotes the ideals of excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism within the legal profession," the core mission of the American Inns of Court.

Overview

The American Inns of Court invites judges, lawyers, professors, students, scholars, and other authors to participate in the competition. Please submit an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 20,000 words on a topic of your choice addressing issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism.

Judges

Professor Stephen Gillers, Chair, Elihu Root Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law

Professor Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr., Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School

Professor Nancy J. Moore, Nancy Barton Scholar and Professor of Law at the Boston University School of Law

Dean Robert M. Wilcox, Dean and Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina School of Law

Prize

The author of the winning essay will receive a cash prize of \$5,000

The essay will be published in the *South Carolina Law Review*

The prize will be presented to the recipient at the American Inns of Court annual Celebration of Excellence at the Supreme Court of the United States

Procedures

Review and follow the Warren E. Burger Prize Rules

Complete the Warren E. Burger Cover Page before submitting your essay

E-mail the completed cover page and essay no later than July 1 to Cindy Dennis

For additional information, contact Cindy Dennis at (571) 319-4703, or e-mail Cindy
The winning essay will be announced on or before August 31.

Warren E. Burger Prize Rules

The American Inns of Court sponsors the Warren E. Burger Prize writing competition to encourage thoughtful consideration of the practical application of the highest principles of professionalism in the American legal community. Through this competition, significant contributions to the body of scholarship in the areas of excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism are recognized and rewarded.

Topic

Authors should address one or more aspects of excellence in legal skills, civility, ethics or professionalism within the legal profession. The selected issue(s) should be of contemporary significance with clear relevance to the legal community at large.

Dates

Submission deadline: Postmarked no later than July 1

Announcement of winner: August 31

Presentation: During our Celebration of Excellence, which is held annually in late October, at the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, DC.

Warren E. Burger Prize Submission Information

Submissions must be original and unpublished works of 10,000-20,000 words including footnotes.

Either independent or collaborative submissions are allowed.

Please designate co-authors if more than one participant drafted the final submission.

Research assistants shall be acknowledged by name in an appropriate footnote.

Each author or co-author may participate in only one entry per year.

A complete submission includes an electronic file containing both the completed cover page and the essay.

Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Cover Page

An electronically-signed cover page should be attached to the submission. The completed form should be typed or printed legibly.

Contact Information

Cindy Dennis

Awards and Scholarships Coordinator

(571) 319-4703

E-mail Cindy

Submissions should be submitted via e-mail to Cindy Dennis

Style Requirements

Authors should submit essays on 8½ x 11 white paper, double-spaced, 1" margins. Use footnotes, not endnotes. The body and footnotes should be of the same typeface-Times New Roman (or equivalent), 12 point.

Only the first page of the manuscript should contain the name of the essay. It should be in bold face, centered in the first line of the paper. The author's name or other identifying marks or references must not appear anywhere in the body of the paper.

Guidelines for the body of text should generally conform to any good style guide, such as *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

Footnotes and citations should conform to *The Bluebook-A Uniform System of Citation*.

Review Process

Submissions will be received, registered and checked for completeness. Cover page information will be entered into a database and the essay will be assigned a tracking number, which will be used to identify it during the entire review and judging process.

Incomplete submissions and submissions postmarked later than July 11 will not be considered. Authors will be notified via e-mail (usually within 7-10 days) that their submissions have been received.

The winner will be announced on or before August 31 and all authors will be promptly notified.

Review Criteria

Entries will be reviewed according to a uniform system of evaluation. Review criteria includes:
Incorporation of the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and civility in the paper

Perspective and objectivity

Organization in a clear and logical manner

Appeal and persuasiveness

Presentation and quality of literary construction

Originality

Restrictions

Membership or affiliation with the American Inns of Court is not a requirement for consideration.

Current and former trustees and employees of the American Inns of Court, and their immediate families may not serve as authors or co-authors of papers submitted.