

STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Insurance Law Section – Fall 2024 Student Writing Competition Call for Submissions

October 22, 2024

GREETINGS TEXAS LAW STUDENTS:

The Insurance Law Section of the State Bar of Texas (“Section”), through its governing council, is requesting submissions for its Fall 2024 Student Writing Competition (the “Competition”) to be coordinated by the Law Student Writing Competition Committee (the “Scholarship Committee”).

The Competition is a state-wide competition, open to written submissions of articles (the “Submissions”) by law students from any of the ten accredited law schools in Texas, specifically:

Through this Call for Submissions, you are invited to submit student-authored briefs addressing a discrete insurance law issue. Our scenario is based on *Westport Ins. Corp. v. Pennsylvania Nat’l Mut. Cas. Ins. Co.*, -- F.4th --, No. 23-20282, 2024 WL 4219298 (5th Cir. Sept. 18, 2024) and the hypothetical situation of the parties filing motions for reconsideration. Your task is to submit an amicus brief in support of one side or the other. You can choose whether to represent the Association of Texas Insurers (in favor of reconsideration) or the Texas Trial Lawyers Cooperative (against reconsideration). Your brief should specifically address the issue in section III.B.2.b. of the opinion addressing whether the July and November 2010 demands satisfied the *Stowers* requirement that an offer include a full and unconditional release.

Briefs must contain: (i) a Table of Contents; (ii) a Table of Authorities; (iii) a brief summary of the argument; and (iv) no more than 15 pages, excluding the Table of Contents and Table of Authorities.

- A law student may make only one Submission for the Fall 2024 Competition. Multiple Submissions by a student during the Competition will render all Submissions by that student ineligible for consideration.
- Scholarships Awards will be presented to “**Statewide Winners**” and “**Best of School Winners**” (collectively, the “**Winners**”).
- The Scholarship Awards for the **Statewide Winners** will be based upon ranking of the best Submissions as determined by the Review Committee, and shall be:
 - **First Place: \$4,000; Second Place: \$2,000; Third Place: \$1,000**

- The Scholarship Awards for the **Best of School Winners** will be based upon ranking of the best Submissions as determined by the Review Committee for each school from which there are at least three submissions, and shall be \$500 per eligible Winner. (Statewide Winners are not eligible to also receive the Best of School Winner award; they are instead limited to the higher Statewide Winner award alone.)
- The Section may, at its discretion, invite any or all Statewide Winners to attend the annual Advanced Insurance Law Seminar in San Antonio to receive their respective awards, with travel stipends of up to \$400 per person upon proof of expenditure.
- A law school in which a Statewide Winner is enrolled is eligible to have a student named a Best of School Winner during the Competition in which the student was named a Statewide Winner. A student named as a Statewide Winner may also be named Best of School Winner during the Competition in which the student was named a Statewide Winner. In such instance, the Statewide Winner shall only receive the Statewide Winner monetary award and will not be eligible to receive the \$500 Best of School Winner monetary award.
- Payment of the Scholarship Award will be made through the respective law school’s financial aid department and is to be used for tuition and fees and expenses during the current semester or quarter, or the semester or quarter immediately subsequent to the Competition. Any Scholarship Award amount remaining after payment of the tuition and fees and expenses during the semester or quarter will be paid directly to the Winner. If any Winners are not enrolled in law school during the semester due to graduation, or due to having fulfilled the requirements of graduation, or due to any reason not related to academic eligibility or disciplinary actions, that Winner will receive the Scholarship Award through direct payment of the awarded amount to the Winner rather than through the law school’s financial aid department. Any Winner not enrolled in the Spring Semester due to academic ineligibility or disciplinary action is ineligible to receive any Scholarship Award as of the date of the academic ineligibility or disciplinary action.

The deadline for Submissions of student papers (“Submission Deadline”) is receipt by the Section on or before 11:59 p.m. CDT on Friday, December 20, 2024. Submissions should be emailed to admin@insurancelawsection.org. Details of the Competition Procedures & Guidelines are available at <https://www.insurancelawsection.org/about/law-student-writing-competition/>. The Procedures & Guidelines will prevail over the terms of this Call for Submissions, to the extent of any inconsistencies.

Submissions shall be reviewed by a Review Committee, which shall select winners and notify them by and through the students’ respective law schools. Winners shall be publicized through the Section. By submitting an entry, you agree to grant the Section the exclusive right for up to one year after the Submission Deadline, and the non-exclusive right in perpetuity, to publish your Submission. Publication media may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the Journal of Texas Insurance Law, Right Off The Press, the Section website or social media, or Section-sponsored Insurance Law Seminar or Insurance Law CLE, or any other media. We hope you participate in this Student Writing Competition, and best of luck.

Sincerely,

Rebecca DiMasi, Chair
Insurance Law Section, State Bar of Texas

Insurance Law Section of the State Bar of Texas | PO Box 4646 | Austin, Texas 78765
Phone: (512) 451-6960 | Fax: (512) 451-2911 | Email: admin@insurancelawseciton.org