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**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 7:58 AM  
**To:** Blair Dancy <[bdancy@cstrial.com](mailto:bdancy@cstrial.com)>  
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**Subject:** Re: State Bar of Texas - Insurance Law Section - Call for Submissions - 2024 Student Writing Competition

**The Committee has been asked whether a contestant is allowed to accept help from a legal writing instructor in respect to reviewing the brief and suggesting general edits. The Committee advises that general edits are welcome, as the choice to use or reject those edits is ultimately the student's and a reflection of that student's thought process. However, edits should not extend into substantively writing the brief on behalf of the student. Edits should not suggest new arguments, for example, or rewrite full sentences on behalf of the student.**

**Additionally, if the paper is edited by another party, the student should disclose this fact when submitting the paper, whether on the paper itself or in the email, with this statement: "This paper has been edited by a third party."**

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**From:** Blair Dancy <[bdancy@cstrial.com](mailto:bdancy@cstrial.com)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 8:07 AM  
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**Subject:** State Bar of Texas - Insurance Law Section - Call for Submissions - 2024 Student Writing Competition

**GREETINGS TEXAS LAW SCHOOLS & LAW STUDENTS:**

*I am a member of the Scholarship Committee of the Council of the State Bar of Texas Insurance Law Section, and I send this email on behalf of Council Chair Rebecca DiMasi.*

The Insurance Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, through its governing Council, is requesting submissions for its Fall 2024 Student Writing Competition and scholarship to be coordinated by the Law Student Writing Competition Committee. Please see the attached Call for Submissions.

This is our fifth year of conducting the state-wide competition, with tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship funds paid to date. The competition is open to law students in good standing from any of the ten accredited law schools in Texas.

This year's written submission is a mock amicus brief to the Fifth Circuit on a discrete *Stowers* issue raised in the recent decision *Westport Ins. Corp. v. Pennsylvania Nat'l Mut. Cas. Ins. Co.*, -- F.4th --, No. 23-20282, 2024 WL 4219298 (5th Cir. Sept. 18, 2024). Further details are in the Call for Submissions.

**The deadline for Submissions 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](mailto:admin@insurancelawsection.org). Details of the Competition Procedures & Guidelines are also available at <https://www.insurancelawsection.org/about/law-student-writing-competition/> (which is being updated this week). 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 committee of Council members, 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, students 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 the submission in any of the Journal of Texas Insurance Law, Right Off The Press, Section website or social media, Section-sponsored Insurance Law Seminar or other media as further described in the Competition Procedures & Guidelines.

**The Competition's Winners will consist of "Statewide Winners" and "Best of School Winners", and shall be awarded Scholarship Awards:**

- **First Place: \$4000;**
- **Second Place: \$2000;**
- **Third Place: \$1000; and,**
- **Best of School: \$500 (must be at least 3 submissions from the school with no Statewide Winner from that particular school)**

The Winners and Scholarship Awards will be based upon a ranking of the best submissions as determined by the sole discretion of the committee. See the Call for Submission for additional details.

Competition Winners shall be publicized by the Section and recognized with an appropriate trophy, plaque, or certificate. The Council has the discretion to invite Statewide Winners to a luncheon during the next Annual Advanced Insurance Law Seminar in San Antonio on Thursday, June 5, 2025.

This is a great opportunity for students to enhance their writing skills, compete for scholarship awards, and potentially get published. The Insurance Law Section encourages your law school to publicize and distribute to your law students the attached Call for Submissions.

Thank you for your consideration, and good luck.

Sincerely,

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

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