The State Bar of Texas Women and the Law Section (the “Section”) invites students currently attending a law school in Texas to participate in its 2020 Texas Law Student Writing Competition (the “Competition”).

The student who wins the Competition, as determined by the Section, in its sole discretion, will receive The 2020 Harriet E. Miers Writing Competition Award (the “Award”). The Award includes $1,000 payable to such student for law-school educational expenses. The Section, in its sole discretion, will publish such student’s essay in its newsletter.

The student who wins second place in the Competition (“Second Place”), as determined by the Section, in its sole discretion, will receive Second Place recognition, including $500 payable to such student for law-school educational expenses. The Section, in its sole discretion, will publish such student’s essay in its newsletter.

Students wishing to be considered for the Award and for Second Place should submit an essay of no more than 2,500 words on the below-referenced topic by no later than February 28, 2020 to Section Chair Nicondra Chargois-Allen via email to sbotwomenandthelaw@gmail.com with the following subject line: “WAL Student Writing Competition.”

The topic of the essay is to identify and analyze a legal challenge for women in Texas and/or in the United States, based on recent news reports. Imagine that you have been invited to publish an op-ed in a newspaper read by the general public.

- What is the challenge? How are women harmed?
- What is the relevant law(s)?
- How should the challenge be addressed?

Submissions will be evaluated based on criteria including the following: (1) legal reasoning; (2) readability; (3) thoroughness; (4) timeliness of topic; (5) organizational structure; (6) Bluebook citation; and (7) grammar.

The Section has designed the Competition with the following goals: (1) to help participating Texas law-school students prepare to tackle legal and societal challenges after graduation and strengthen their written advocacy skills; (2) to increase awareness of and involvement with the Section; and (3) to further the Section’s mission. The Section’s mission is to encourage and facilitate the active and effective participation of women in the legal profession and in the community, and to address the current needs of and issues affecting women.