2017 Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association

Franklin W. Klein Law Student Writing Competition

Official Writing Competition Rules

Description of Competition

The Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association is a not-for-profit professional organization founded in 1992 to serve the needs of the practicing local government attorney. Since its inception, the Association has served as a conduit for publications, workshops, conferences and website. The Association enables local government lawyers to share information and solutions to problems of mutual interest by providing an open forum for the exchange of ideas and "in depth" discussions of issues. Membership in the Association is open to all attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois and actively representing local government and to law students. ILGL is an accredited CLE Provider and an affiliate of the Illinois State Bar Association.

The philosophy of the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association is to coordinate and promote professional education, information exchange and interaction among local government attorneys in Illinois in order to ensure the highest level of professional representation to units of local government.

The goal of the competition is to encourage scholarship in the area of local government law and to attract law students to the practice of local government law.

The Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association, Franklin W. Klein Law Student Writing Competition ("Competition") honors the memory of a founding member of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, Ltd. one of the oldest and respected local government law firms in the State of Illinois and the Sponsor of the writing competition. Franklin W. Klein graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1932 and founded the firm in 1935. He retired from a distinguished legal career in 1996.

Eligibility

The Competition is open to students currently enrolled in any ABA accredited law school or individuals who have registered for or have taken the Illinois Bar Examination during the year the entry is submitted. Students who submit an entry for the current year's competition are eligible for succeeding competitions so long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

Writing Topic

The writing submission should directly relate to local government law in Illinois. Topics may also relate to the effect of federal law upon local governments and should focus on decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court and the Seventh Circuit.

Format of Writing Submission

1. All submissions must be made electronically in Word format and submitted as an attachment to an e-mail. The text of the entry must be in 8 1/2 x 11 inch format, double-spaced, with one inch margins, twelve-pt. Times New Roman font and should be 2,500 to 3,500 words, exclusive of footnotes and endnotes.
2. All submissions must conform to the latest version of *The Bluebook – A Uniform System of Citation*. Citations may be embedded within the text or set out in footnotes or endnotes. Footnotes or endnotes should be single-spaced, also in 12-pt. font and with one inch margins. Lengthy footnotes or endnotes should be avoided.
3. Each paper must be the original work of the author. Submissions may be co-authored, but each author must be qualified to enter.
4. No paper that has been previously published in any form will be considered. However, papers written for law school credit may be submitted and students may incorporate professorial feedback into their writing submission.
5. The name of the author may not appear upon the writing submission.
6. A separate cover page should accompany the submission that includes the following information for each author:
   a. The title of the writing submission
   b. The author's name
   c. The author's post office and email address
   d. The author's contact phone number
   e. The author's law school and anticipated date of graduation.
   f. A two sentence biography of the author
   g. If the submission was originally submitted for course credit, the cover page should include the name of the professor to which the paper was originally submitted.
   h. The cover page must also include a certification that the entry is the original work of the author and has not been previously published.
   i. Each submission must also be accompanied by an executed License Agreement in the form attached hereto.
7. Only one submission may be made per entrant per annual competition.
8. All submissions become the property of the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association (ILGL) and will not be returned. By submitting an article for the competition each author gives the ILGL a non-exclusive worldwide right of publication of their writing submission in any media or form of communication, the non-exclusive right to reproduce, edit and distribute the entry and the non-exclusive right to use the name and likeness of the entrant in connection with this Competition.
9. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an article are the sole responsibility of the entrant.
10. The ILGL will not be responsible for errors, or for lost, late or misdirected mail, email or telecommunication or hardware or software failure. The ILGL reserves the right to cancel the competition if it is not capable of completion due to force majeure or technical difficulties of any kind.

Entry Deadline

All submissions must be received prior to 12 midnight on September 30th. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. Submissions should be sent by e-mail to Executive Director – Dawn Peters, Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association at dpeters@niu.edu. The subject line should read Franklin W. Klein Writing Competition. All submissions must include the cover page, article and license agreement.

Judging, Criteria and Determination of Winners

1. All entries will be judged anonymously by judges selected by the ILGL.
2. Entries will be judged upon the following criteria:
   a. Relevance and usefulness of the subject matter to the local government practitioner
   b. Clarity and conciseness of writing style
   c. Quality of research and legal analysis.
3. Judges will select a third, second and first place winning submission. The ILGL reserves the right not to award any prize if the judges determine that no entries are of sufficient quality to merit selection.
4. The decision of the judges is final. The winning submissions will be notified by e-mail on or before December 31st, and all winners will be required to acknowledge and confirm agreement to the terms and conditions of the competition. Any author failing to confirm agreement will forfeit the prize and another winner may be selected.

Awards

1. The first place submission will receive a cash award of $500.00. The second place submission will receive a cash award of $250.00. The third place submission will receive a cash award of $100.00. Co-authors will divide prizes.
2. Each winner will receive a plaque memorializing his/her winning article.
3. Each winner will receive free admission to the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association Annual Conference occurring in February, where the competition awards will be presented.
4. Each winner will receive free membership in the ILGL for one year after admission to the bar.
5. Winners will also be announced in the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Journal.
6. Winners shall be solely responsible for the reporting and payment of all taxes (federal state or other) on all awards and will be required to complete a W-9.
7. All three winning submissions will be considered for publication in the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association Journal. Publication in the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association Journal shall be at the sole discretion of the ILGL Board of Directors. In the event that one or more non-winning entries are determined by the judges to be of sufficient quality to merit publication, the ILGL shall have the right to publish the non-winning entry in the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association Journal.

Conditions of Participation

By participating, each entrant agrees to these Official Rules and the decisions of the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association and judges and releases and discharges the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association and the Sponsor, including but not limited to each of their respective officers, directors, members, employees, agents, representatives and successors and

assigns and the judges (collectively the Released Parties) from any and all liability whatsoever in connection with this Competition, including but not limited to all legal claims, costs, injuries, damages to or destruction of property, rights of publicity or privacy, defamation, or claims of copyright infringement.

Questions

All questions regarding this competition should be directed to: Dawn Peters, Executive Director, at dpeters@niu.edu.