



**ABA Section of International Law Announces 2009-2010  
Rona R. Mears Student Writing Competition & Scholarship Awards**

The American Bar Association Section of International Law is proudly sponsoring a student writing competition to encourage law student interest and participation in the practice of International Law and the Section.

**1. Competition Guidelines**

Eligible contestants are students enrolled at a U.S. law school or a student enrolled in a law study program outside of the U.S. This competition is only open to students who are members of the ABA Section of International Law.

The paper should be essay quality with a length of 3,000-5,000 words, and sources should be noted within the body of the essay (the final essay should *not* include footnotes). Only original and previously unpublished papers are eligible. Papers prepared for law school credit are eligible, provided they are original works. Joint authored papers are **NOT** eligible. Entrants may have a faculty member or practicing lawyer review and critique their work, but the submission must be the contestants own product. Judges and SIL leadership shall not participate in the contest or review/critique contestant entries prior to submission.

All submissions should be received electronically by **January 15, 2010** by Director of Membership Angela Benson at [bensona@staff.abanet.org](mailto:bensona@staff.abanet.org).

**2. Topic of Essay**

The essay topic for the 2009-2010 academic year is **“The Scope and Application of Universal Jurisdiction.”**

The following information should be on the title page: title, author’s name, ABA membership number, law school attending and author’s year in school, author’s permanent and temporary address, telephone numbers and email address.

**3. Competition Awards**

The prizes are as follows:

The winning essay will be published in the Section’s quarterly newsletter, *The International Law News*, which is distributed to over 23,000 Section members in

90 countries. Two \$1,000 prizes – For First and Second Place Winners, the prizes will be presented at the Section’s 2010 Spring Meeting in New York, N.Y. Winners will receive free meeting registration to the Spring Meeting, coach airfare (21 day advance purchase) and two nights lodging up to \$1,000. Travel costs will be reimbursed after the Spring Meeting. Any taxes due on cash awards are the responsibility of the winners.

#### **4. Judging**

The papers will be judged on an original analysis of the topic that is persuasive and accurate, supported by citations within the body of the essay, if necessary and clearly written. Judging will be by a committee appointed by the Membership Committee that will select the winning submission. The Committee reserves the right not to award the prize if the Committee determines that no entry is of sufficient quality to merit recognition. ABA staff will notify the winner after the Committee selection process is complete.

#### **5. Reproduction**

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