



Law Reform Committee

# THE LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

## ESSAY COMPETITION 2014

Sponsored by the Bar Council Scholarship Trust

### ENTRY FORM

*You should complete Sections A, B, C and then pass the form to your Pupil Supervisor/Academic Supervisor to complete Section D*

Completed forms should be returned no later than 17:00 on 7 October 2014 to Jan Bye, Executive Secretary, Law Reform Committee, General Council of the Bar, 289 - 293 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7HZ

### SECTION A – PERSONAL DETAILS

Surname

First name(s)

Title

Private address

Postcode

Telephone no

E-mail

### SECTION B – DETAILS OF TRAINING

Name of Chambers/Educational Institution

Address

Postcode

Name of Course

Email

Name of person certifying that you qualify as an entrant in the appropriate category

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Position in organization

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Telephone no

E-mail

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SECTION C -  
CONFIRMATION  
(SEE RULE 3)

I CONFIRM THAT THE ESSAY I AM SUBMITTING TO THE LAW REFORM COMMITTEE ESSAY COMPETITION 2014 IS MY SOLE CREATION AND ORIGINAL WORK. I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ATTACHED GUIDANCE ON PLAGIARISM.

Signature

Date

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SECTION D -  
AUTHORISATION

TO BE SIGNED BY PUPIL SUPERVISOR/ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR

I confirm that the entrant named above is entitled to submit an entry to the Law Reform Committee's Essay Competition 2014 as \*(a) being in pupillage, (b) having an offer of pupillage, or (c) undertaking the academic or vocational stage of training for the Bar.

\* Delete as applicable

Signature

Date

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## THE COMPETITION

The subject of law reform has a continuing and dynamic bearing upon the development of jurisprudence and the just application of the legal system. It can be observed from many angles: legislative, either national, regional or pan European, within global treaties or the statements of the UN or similar institutions, by court decisions, or the pressure of public opinion. The Law Reform Committee of the General Council of the Bar is concerned to demonstrate the importance of, and to foster an interest in, law reform and to that end is promoting this prize essay competition.

The competition is open to pupils, students studying for a qualifying law degree or approved Common Professional Examination/Graduate Diploma in Law course, Bar Professional Training Course students in England & Wales and those aiming for a career at the Bar.

## THE TOPIC

**Entrants are invited to submit an essay of not more than 3,000 words, which identifies and makes the case for a law reform that is desirable, practical and useful.**

The successful entry will be that which best demonstrates to the judge not only the quality of ideas and research of the author, but the practicality and utility of the proposed reform.

## THE PRIZES

**£4,000 Winner**  
**£2,500 Runner up**  
**£1,500 Best CPE entry**  
**£1,000 Runner up CPE entry**  
**£500 x 2 Highly commended prizes**

The awards will be presented at the Law Reform Lecture on 18 November 2014.

## THE RULES

1. The Competition is open to anyone who satisfies any one or more of the following criteria when they submit their essay:
  - a) A person who is undertaking a pupillage, as defined in the Bar Training Regulations of the Bar Standards Board, which is registered with the Bar Standards Board.
  - b) A person who holds an offer of such a pupillage, which will be registered in the pupillage year 2014/15 or 2015/16.
  - c) A person who:
    - i. is undertaking the academic stage of training for the Bar (that is to say studying for a qualifying degree in law or approved Common Professional Examination/Graduate Diploma in Law course) during the academic session 2013/14, or is or will be doing so during the academic session 2014/15, save for those with a settled intention not to become a practising member of the Bar of England and Wales; or

- ii. is undertaking the vocational stage of training for the Bar (that is to say the Bar Professional Training Course) during the academic session 2013/14, or is or will be doing so during the academic session 2014/15.
  
- d) Any other person who has satisfied the Law Reform Committee of the Bar Council (acting through its Chairman or a Vice-Chairman), in consultation with the Bar Council Scholarship Trust, that he or she is actively seeking to become a practising member of the Bar of England & Wales.

For a list of **qualifying** law degrees and approved CPE/GDL courses please refer to the Bar Standards Board website ([www.BarStandardsBoard.org.uk](http://www.BarStandardsBoard.org.uk)).

2. Essays should identify and make the case for a law reform that is desirable, practical and useful. Essays must be about a reform to English, Welsh or European law. Essays must be of no more than 3,000 words (including footnotes), typed and in double line spacing. Six hardcopies should be submitted together with one email copy and should include a word count.
3. The essay must be the sole creation and original work of the entrant. The essay must not have been submitted to this or any other essay competition in previous years. Guidance on plagiarism is attached; any form of plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification. Entrants **must not** submit an essay which is in substance the same as one submitted in a previous year. An essay may be a reworked piece of the entrant's course work provided that it was originally the sole creation of the entrant.
4. Entries must be approved by the Pupil Supervisor or Academic Supervisor, whose signature is to warrant that the entrant falls within the appropriate category.
5. No person may submit more than one essay for each annual competition.
6. Copyright and all other intellectual property rights in the award winning entries will vest in the General Council of the Bar.
7. The prizes on offer are stated above. Entrants cannot win more than one prize in any one year. The award of all or any of the prizes lies solely within the discretion of the judges. The judges' decision will be final.
8. The deadline for the receipt of entries is **17:00 on 7 October 2014** at the offices of the General Council of the Bar, 289 - 293 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HZ (e-mail entry to [WMcLaughlin@BarCouncil.org.uk](mailto:WMcLaughlin@BarCouncil.org.uk)).
9. All entries will be acknowledged but will not be returned.
10. Winners are entitled to refer to the achievement on their CV.
11. It is anticipated that the prizewinners will be announced, and prize presented at the annual Law Reform Lecture on 18 November 2014.
12. The decision of the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman of the Law Reform Committee on the interpretation of these Rules will be final.

# Law Reform Committee Essay Competition: PLAGIARISM

## Plagiarism: Guidance and Penalty

### Guidance

The Law Reform Committee is concerned about the submission of plagiarised essays in its competition by a small minority of entrants. This Guidance is provided to prevent the submission of such essays.

The essay must be the sole creation and original work of the entrant.

Entrants are expected already to be aware of any plagiarism guidance and policies of the academic and professional training institutions to which they currently belong or have belonged. The Law Reform Committee's guidance reproduces and adapts information from two such policies for the purposes of its Essay Competition.<sup>1</sup> The Law Reform Committee is grateful to both institutions for permission to do so.

Plagiarism occurs where an entrant copies from any other source (published or unpublished) in an unauthorised manner and attempts to present that work as if it were the entrant's own in order to obtain an unfair advantage.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Submitting someone else's work as your own
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- Giving misleading information about the source of a quotation
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- Copying so many words from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

Quotations from recognised sources are usually acceptable, but must be clearly acknowledged and a reference given for the source (i.e. sources must be cited). The following situations almost always require citation:

- Whenever you use quotes
- Whenever you paraphrase
- Whenever you use an idea that someone else has already expressed
- Whenever you make specific reference to the work of another
- Whenever someone else's work has been critical in developing your own ideas

In the case of any doubt, citation is recommended.

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<sup>1</sup> UCL Student Handbook / Information for Current Students (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/guidelines/plagiarism>) and the BPTC Handbook ([http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media/28049/bptc\\_final\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media/28049/bptc_final_pdf.pdf)).

The Law Reform Committee may proactively seek out instances of plagiarism, for example by the use of an electronic plagiarism detection system or service to scan submitted essays prior to their assessment.

### Penalty

Any entry which is found not to be the sole creation and original work of the entrant (“plagiarism”) will be disqualified from the LRC Essay Competition.

Where plagiarism is found after the making of an award to the entrant, the entry will be disqualified and the entrant must return the award and any prize money to the LRC. The essay will be removed from the Bar Council website and the entrant must not refer to the award as one on their achievements (whether on their CV, personal website etc.).

Whenever plagiarism is found in any essay submitted for the competition the LRC reserves the right in serious cases to report the matter to the entrant’s:

1. Place of academic study.
2. Inn of Court (or intended Inn of Court).
3. Chambers (or intended Chambers).
4. Relevant professional representative or regulatory body.