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January 5, 2017

Dear Dean:

The International Association of Defense Counsel announces its 2017 Legal Writing Contest, which is open to students in accredited law schools in the United States and Canada. Founded in 1920, IADC is an association of lawyers, barristers, solicitors, corporate counsel, and insurance executives from over 45 nations.

Entries must be the original work of a single author, not previously published, and they must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. While entrants are free to take positions on issues, their articles should be expository in nature, and an author's ability to make a thoughtful and balanced presentation will be considered. There is no strict limitation on the length of entries, but succinctness and the frugal use of footnotes are encouraged. (Suggested word limit: 12,000 words, including footnotes.) An IADC committee will judge the contest and will award monetary prizes of US\$2,000 for first place, US\$1,000 for second, and US\$500 for third place. The judges also may award honorable mentions. Winning and honorable mention entries will be considered for publication in the IADC's quarterly *Defense Counsel Journal*.

Past experience has shown that law professors are in an ideal position to stimulate student interest in legal writing and to encourage participation in the IADC Legal Writing Contest. Each year a number of the entries appear to have been prepared initially for various courses or seminars, and the caliber of the papers has been high. Please circulate the information about the contest to appropriate members of your faculty.

I have enclosed a poster announcing the contest, as well as the contest rules, writing guidelines, and entry form. Please display this poster on appropriate student bulletin boards and/or via electronic means to your students. Information regarding the contest is also available at <http://www.iadclaw.org/publications-news/publications/Legal-Writing-Contest/>. Please encourage your students to take this valuable opportunity and enter the IADC contest.

Sincerely,



Amy O'Malley McGuire, Esq.
IADC Director of Professional Development
Managing Editor, *Defense Counsel Journal*



2017 Legal Writing Contest

Contest Rules

1. **Eligibility.** The International Association of Defense Counsel 2017 Legal Writing Contest is open to students who, at the time of submission of their entries, are enrolled as J.D. candidates in accredited law schools.
2. **Subject Matter.** Entries must be submitted in the English language on a subject of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation, such as relevant aspects of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, damages, alternative dispute resolution procedures, and professional ethics.
3. **Authorship and Publication.** Entries must be certified by the entrant on the IADC entry form to be the original and sole work of the entrant. At the time of submission, the entry must not have been published or accepted for publication, and the author must be free to execute the assignment of copyright to IADC referred to in Rule 7.
4. **Judging.** The contest will be judged by a committee of the IADC, whose decisions will be final. In addition to the monetary award winners, the judges may designate entries worthy of honorable mention.
5. **Judging Standards.** Articles will be judged on the following factors: (1) the choice of subject matter, as measured by its significance, international or national relevance, and timeliness; (2) the amount of work and effort, as measured by the entry's comprehensiveness and analysis; (3) the quality of the legal analysis, as measured by its objectivity and balance; and (4) the writing quality, as measured by clarity of expression, brevity, and literary construction. Entrants also should consider the points made in the contest guidelines.
6. **Monetary Awards.** Monetary awards will be made as follows: US\$2,000 to first place, US\$1,000 to second place, and US\$500 to third place. Honorary mentions receive no monetary awards.
7. **Plaques and Publication.** Authors of monetary award articles and of those awarded honorable mention will receive commemorative plaques, and their articles will be made available for publication in *Defense Counsel Journal*, IADC's quarterly law review. At the time of submission, entrants must execute the assignment of copyright in the entry certificate. IADC will copyright articles published in *Defense Counsel Journal*, but release the copyright assignment back to entrants whose works are not published. Acceptance for publication in any publication other than *Defense Counsel Journal* prior to notice to the author of an award in this contest will disqualify the entry. Entrants are expected to notify IADC promptly of such prior acceptance by another publication.
8. **Deadline for 2017 Entries.** Entries must be received on or before Friday, May 19, 2017.
9. **Directions for Transmission.** Entries, together with the completed entry form, must be sent to the International Association of Defense Counsel, via electronic mail to Melisa Maisel Vanis at mmaisel@iadclaw.org.



PLEASE EMAIL, FAX OR MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR ENTRY TO:
303 W. Madison, Suite 925, Chicago, Illinois 60606 USA
Attn: Melisa Maisel Vanis, Professional Development Manager
P: 312.368.1494 F: 312.368.1854
E-mail: mmaisel@iadclaw.org www.iadclaw.org

2017 Legal Writing Contest

Entry Certificate and Assignment of Copyright

Name _____

Law School _____

Year in Law School _____

Forwarding Address (Valid Post-Graduation) _____

Telephone _____

Forwarding E-mail (Valid Post-Graduation) _____

I hereby submit my entry entitled _____

for the 2017 International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) Legal Writing Contest.

I certify that my entry is my original work, of which I am the sole author; that my entry has not been previously published or accepted for publication; that I have not heretofore assigned or agreed to assign the copyright to my entry; that the entry does not violate or infringe upon any copyright or other proprietary right; and that I am free to execute the following assignment to IADC. I further certify that I have read the Legal Writing Contest rules and writing guidelines and agree to abide by and be bound by them and the decisions of the IADC Judges Committee.

I hereby assign to IADC the entire copyright and all rights protected thereunder in and to the enclosed article in the event that it is published in the IADC's publication, *Defense Counsel Journal*.

DATED: _____, _____

**ALL ENTRIES
MUST BE
SUBMITTED BY
MAY 19, 2017**

Signature of entrant

Printed name