



**National Native American Law Students Association
2024-25 Law Student Writing Competition (“Competition”)
Hosted by Seattle University School of Law Center for Indian Law and Policy,
American Indian Law Journal, Native American Law Students Association**

Official Rules

1. **DESCRIPTION**: This Competition (“Competition”) is sponsored by the National Native American Law Students Association (“National NALSA”). This 2024-25 academic year, Seattle University School of Law (“Host”) is hosting the Competition in collaboration with the Center for Indian Law and Policy, American Indian Law Journal (“AILJ”), and Seattle University’s Native American Law Students Association (“NALSA”) chapter. The goal of the Competition is to encourage law students to become involved with National NALSA and increase awareness and education regarding legal issues that impact Native Nations, InterTribal organizations, and Indigenous communities. Each participant must follow the rules established here.
2. **ELIGIBILITY**: The Competition is open to any law student who, at the time of entry in the Competition, (1) is enrolled in an ABA-accredited law school during the academic year of the Competition, (2) is a member in good standing with National NALSA and, if applicable, active in their local NALSA chapter, (3) have met all financial obligations of membership in National NALSA as well as their local NALSA chapter, (4) is a legal resident of the United States, and (5) is at least 18 years old.
 - a. Annual National NALSA individual membership fees are \$35 before November 15, 2024, and \$50 thereafter.
 - b. Annual National NALSA chapter fees are \$50 before November 15, 2024, and \$75 thereafter. If students have no local NALSA chapter, this should be described in their cover letter.
3. **TOPIC**: Submissions for the Competition is limited to your original writing on a question of legal and/or policy significance related to the field of Indigenous Peoples law. This can include, but is not limited to, topic areas relating to Native Nations, InterTribal organizations, and Indigenous communities. The decision of whether a particular essay qualifies as to subject matter is entirely within the discretion of the Host.
4. **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**: All submissions must be the original, unpublished work of the participant. Any relevant article or essay may be submitted for the Competition, including writing submitted for academic credit. Submissions must not have been previously published in any media. Only one essay may be submitted to the Competition by each participant. Failure to submit an original essay will result in disqualification and may result in the selection of a new winner. Please note that artificial intelligence tools (ChatGPT, Lexis+ AI, etc.) are permitted for limited use, but all work should remain primarily the author’s, and all information should be properly cite checked and cross-referenced.
 - a. Essays must be in Word or PDF format on 8-½ x 11-inch paper, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, 12-point type (10-point for footnotes, single-spaced, which must be in Bluebook format), and should be roughly 20-30 pages in length. Each page must have a header including the title of the essay and a page number. For anonymous evaluation of the submissions, no information that could identify the author should appear anywhere in the document, including in the body of the essay, header, footer, or document properties.



- b. Submissions shall also include a separate cover sheet in a separate electronic Word or PDF file. The following information shall be presented on the cover sheet: (1) paper title, (2) author's name, (3) short professional blurb/biography that describes the author's interest and commitment to Indigenous Peoples law, (4) Tribal affiliation and status (enrolled member, descendent, ally, etc.), (5) law school, (6) expected year of graduation from law school, (7) mailing address, and (8) email address.
 - c. Submissions must consist of two documents: (1) a cover sheet, and (2) the essay. For anonymity, it is important that the cover sheet be the only document with identifying information. Submissions must be sent by email to the National NALSA Writing Competition Administrator Caitlin Clarke at writingcompetititon@nationalnalsa.org. Please use the subject line "**National NALSA Writing Competition**" and submit by **Saturday, February 22, 2025, 11:59PM (MT)**. The Sponsor is not responsible for errors or for lost, late, or misdirected email, or telecommunication or hardware or software failures, including by reason of any bug or computer virus or other failure.
 - d. Participants should write essays in traditional law review style, presenting a scholarly discussion with full citation to authority in footnotes. Essays should conform to the current edition of the Bluebook—A Uniform System of Citation.
 - e. Participants acknowledge that the AILJ will not return any submissions. All participants retain full copyright to their submissions except that the winners are required to license certain rights to the AILJ (see paragraph 7 below) as a condition of entry.
5. **SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF WINNER:** The Competition aims to contribute to the rapidly developing field of Indigenous Peoples law. Submissions will be judged based on the following criteria: (1) advocacy of issues in Indigenous Peoples law that center and uplift Indigenous voices and perspectives, (2) writing quality, (3) analysis and legal reasoning, (4) originality, (5) quality and use of research, (6) compliance with these Rules. The submissions will be judged anonymously by a committee of students ("Committee") selected by the Writing Competition Administrator who have demonstrated expertise in legal writing and research, and a commitment to the field of Indigenous Peoples law. Winning selections will be made by the Committee through a holistic review process. The Committee will notify the winners by email of their selection no later than February 28, 2025. The Committee reserves the right not to award a prize if it is determined that no submissions are of sufficient quality to merit selection that year. If a potential winner does not respond within ten (10) business days after the Committee's first attempt to contact them, or if the contact is returned non-deliverable, the potential winner forfeits all rights to be named as winner or receive a prize and an alternate winner may be chosen.
6. **PRIZES:** The top three essays will each receive a cash prize. The first-place winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize. The second-place winner will receive a \$750 cash prize. The third-place winner will receive a \$250 cash prize. All three winners will be published in the American Indian Law Journal ("AILJ") and must agree to the terms of publication. Any questions related to publication in the AILJ may be directed to AILJ1@seattleu.edu. Winners will be solely responsible for reporting and payment of all taxes (federal, state, local, and other) on prizes. Winners will be required to complete a W-9, affidavit of eligibility, tax acknowledgement and liability release for tax purposes. All forms must be completed and returned via email to the Writing Competition Administrator at writingcompetition@nationalnalsa.org within ten (10) business days of receipt, or prizes will be considered forfeited and another winner may be named. The decision of the Committee is final.



7. **LICENSE/GRANT OF RIGHTS:** By entering, the winnings participants consent to the publication of their entry by the American Indian Law Journal; understand that publication is not guaranteed; and grant the AILJ the following rights: (1) the non-exclusive worldwide right of publication of their submission in the AILJ; (2) the non-exclusive worldwide, in the AILJ's sole discretion, to use, transcribe, publish, reproduce, distribute, or display the submission, alone or in conjunction with other materials; (3) the right to edit the submission to conform to the publication's standards of style, technological requirements, language, grammar and punctuation, provided the meaning of the submission is not materially altered; (4) the non-exclusive worldwide right to use the winner's name and likeness in connection with the submission or this Competition, in each case, without further compensation. Additionally, the winning participants may be asked to execute a separate publication agreement giving the AILJ the publication rights enumerated above. If the winners fail to sign the agreement within ten (10) business days of receipt, their prize will be considered forfeited and another winner may be named in their place. By entering, participants warrant that their entry is original and not subject to any third-party copyright, that publication of the entry will not libel anyone or infringe on or invade the rights of others and that the entry has not been published elsewhere in whole or in part.
8. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** The deadline for submission is **Saturday, February 22, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. (MT)**. All submissions must consist of two separate documents: (1) a cover letter, and (2) the essay. Both must be sent by email to writingcompetition@nationalnalsa.org.
9. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNER:** Pending the timing of the Competition and the selection of winners by the Committee, the winners may be announced at the AILJ Symposium at Seattle University in the Spring Semester 2025. Winners will have been notified at this stage. Also please note that winners may be posted on National NALSA and Seattle University websites, social media, etc., in addition to being published in AILJ.
10. **ODDS OF WINNING:** Chances of winning may vary depending on the number of submissions. However, the Committee reserves the right not to award any prize if the judges determine that no submissions are of sufficient quality to merit selection that year.
11. **LAWS AND REGULATION:** This contest is governed by U.S. law and all relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. By entering, all participants agree that the competition shall be governed by the laws of the state of New Mexico, that the courts of New Mexico shall have exclusive jurisdiction, and that New Mexico shall be the venue for any dispute or litigation relating to or arising from the competition. Void where prohibited by law.
12. **CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION:** By participating, each participant agrees to these Official Rules and the decisions of the Host, and releases and discharges National NALSA, Seattle University, subsidiary and affiliated entities, and each of their respective officers, directors, members, employees, independent contractors, agents, representatives, successors and assigns (collectively "Sponsor" and "Host") from any and all liability whatsoever in connection with this promotion, including without limitation legal claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages, demands or actions of any kind (including without limitation personal injuries, death, damage to, loss or destruction of property, rights of publicity or privacy, defamation, or portrayal in a false light) (collectively "Claims"). Except where prohibited, acceptance of a prize constitutes a release by any winner of the Sponsor and the Host of any and all Claims in connection with the administration of this promotion and the use, misuse or possession of any prize. All submissions become the property of Sponsor and will not be acknowledged or returned. Sponsor is not



responsible for errors or for lost, late, or misdirected mail or email, or telecommunication or hardware or software failures, including by reason of any bug or computer virus or other failure. Sponsor may cancel, modify or terminate the promotion if it is not capable of completion as planned, including by reason of infection by computer virus, tampering, unauthorized intervention, force majeure or technical difficulties of any kind.

13. **PRIVACY POLICY/DATA COLLECTION**: Please refer to National NALSA's Privacy Policy.
14. **SPONSOR**: National Native American Law Students Association.
15. **HOST**: Seattle University School of Law, 901 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122.