

**State Bar of Texas Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law
Student Writing Contest**

Contest Rules

Goals: The goals of the State Bar of Texas Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section ("REPTL") Student Writing Contest ("Contest") are to encourage and reward law student writings on real property, probate, and trust law subjects of general and current interest. As part of this effort, REPTL will sponsor the Contest, which invites law school students to submit to REPTL original essays on a general or current topic dealing with real property, probate, or trust law. The Contest is designed to attract students to the real property, probate, and trust law fields, and to strongly encourage scholarship in these areas.

Who May Enter: The contest is open to any law school student in good standing, over the age of 18, who is currently attending, or has graduated from within the last 7 months, an ABA-accredited law school located in the State of Texas. Each entrant must have begun classes in furtherance of a law degree.

Deadline: Entries must be received by REPTL no later than July 1, 2012.

Essays: Entrants must submit an article on a current or general topic dealing with real property, probate, or trust law. "Real property, probate and trust law " is a broad category containing numerous practice disciplines. Without attempting to define the area precisely, the subject is intended to include matters within law school curricula in courses entitled: Property; Estate and Gift Tax; Wills and Decedents' Estates; Real Estate Development; Environmental Law; Elder Law, Land Use Planning; Federal Taxation; Real Estate Finance; Employee Benefit Plans; Planning, Drafting and Negotiating Commercial Real Estate Transactions; Taxation and Regulation of Non-Profit Organizations; Business Succession Planning; Life Insurance and Other Insurance Products; Trusts and Trust Law; Wealth Management; Fiduciary Income Taxation; Estate Planning; and Probate and Estate Administration. REPTL will interpret the scope of the subject broadly to ensure that the Contest affords the greatest degree of flexibility in writing on these subject areas. Entrants are encouraged to write on subjects of State of Texas interest. Entrants must submit their own original article. If any article is found not to be an original, it will be disqualified from the Contest. In addition, the entrant's name, the article, and the evidence showing that it was not authored by the entrant may be turned over to the entrant's law school and the appropriate Board of Law Examiners.

Specifications: Articles must be submitted electronically in Adobe pdf format, as an attachment to an e-mail message to sections@texasbar.com with the subject line, "WRITING CONTEST ENTRY" (in all caps), formatted for standard, 8.5 x 11 inch paper and double spaced. All margins must be one inch. Articles must not exceed 25 pages of double-spaced typed text, including footnotes. Only one article may be submitted by each entrant. Entrants should write articles in traditional law review style, presenting a scholarly discussion with full citation to authority in footnotes. Lengthy lists and outlines normally are not appropriate within the text of the article; however, they may be included as appendices to a textual discussion. For example, if the law of all states on a subject is surveyed, the article may compare analytically how and why the law differs between jurisdictions. A listing of the law by jurisdiction within the body of the

article would generally not be appropriate. If such a listing of the law by jurisdiction would be of particular value to the reader, it may be included in an appendix to the article. Entrants should write articles in the active voice and in the third person. Articles should conform to *The Bluebook-A Uniform System of Citation* and to the *Texas Law Review Manual on Style*.

Prizes: Two winners, one in Probate and Trust and one in Real Estate will receive \$5,000.00 cash and a one-year free membership in the Section. The first-place winner's article will be considered for publication in the *REPTL Reporter*, and may appear in an upcoming issue. No substitutions will be permitted, except at REPTL's discretion, in which case a prize of equal or greater value may be substituted. REPTL may also determine to make additional Honorable Mention Award(s), in its sole discretion, to recognize other high quality submission(s). Any taxes are the responsibility of the winners.

Entries: All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the entrant's responsibility. Winners must relinquish all rights to REPTL to reproduce entries in any medium and without restriction. Essays submitted must have been created by the entrant and must never have been published in any other medium, printed or electronic.

By entering, the winners give REPTL the right to reproduce any article submitted in any medium without time, use, or territorial limitation, as long as such is for noncommercial purposes. Entries will not be returned. All entries submitted to REPTL become the property of REPTL.

Entrants must submit their articles with a title page included. The title page should contain only the article's title and the entrant's name. The entrant's name is not to be on any page of the submitted article except for the title page. Entrants' identities will not be known to the judges. In addition to the article, each entrant must complete and submit an official entry form published by REPTL that will provide the title of his or her article and date, the entrant's printed name and signature, law school, year of expected graduation, and all permanent and temporary addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Forms that require signatures should be printed, signed, scanned and then attached to the e-mail message which submits the writing contest entry.

The entrant's signature verifies: (1) that the entrant has read the competition rules and accepts the conditions stated; (2) that the article is written by the entrant; (3) that the entrant releases REPTL from all liability; and (4) that the entrant releases the use of his or her article and name for publication in any medium and for editorial, advertising, and promotional usage, without compensation, in connection with the promotion by REPTL of this and succeeding contests sponsored by REPTL. Entrants must also submit the requisite publication release form attached to the official entry form. Official entry forms and releases are available from the Section's Website at www.REPTL.org. If the title page, official entry form, and the required release forms are not all fully completed, signed, and submitted with any entry, the entry will be disqualified. Proper submission of all required forms constitutes acceptance of all conditions set forth in these rules.

Tennessee Residents Only: The entry form for Tennessee residents will exclude the requirement that the entrants allow the use of their names in any medium, and for editorial, advertising, and promotional usage, without compensation, in connection with the promotion by REPTL of this and succeeding essay contests sponsored by REPTL.

Judging: Applicants shall expect articles to be judged on the basis of research and analysis, choice of topic, writing style, originality, and contribution to the literature available on the topic. One winner in the area of trusts and estates and in the area of real estate will be selected on or before August 1, 2012, by a panel of judges appointed at the discretion of the Section. The decision of the judges shall be final. REPTL will attempt to notify all winners by mail and/or e-mail and announce the awards prior to September 1, 2012.

Restrictions: Void where prohibited. Any paper must not have been previously published in or on any medium over which the student authorized, directly or indirectly, to be published in a copyrighted medium or form. Essays prepared for law school credit are eligible provided they are the entrant's original work. Each entry shall be the original work of a single individual. Jointly authored essays are not acceptable. Although the entrant may obtain some guidance from others, the work must be that of the entrant. The ideas and work reflected by each article must be the entrant's own. The entrant must perform all of the key tasks of identifying the topic, researching it, analyzing it, formulating positions and arguments, and writing and revising the essay. The entrant may inform another of the entrant's progress in performing these tasks, and accept a reasonable amount of responsive advice. For example, the entrant may obtain a professor's opinion that a proposed topic is a good choice, that a detailed outline should be reorganized or that a first draft unwisely omits to cover a subtopic or to raise and respond to criticisms of the entrant's thesis. The entrant must limit the amount of such advice sought or received, so that the final article truly reflects the entrant's own ideas and work, not another's. Section officers and State Bar of Texas staff and the panel of judges shall not participate in this process.

**STATE BAR OF TEXAS SECTION OF
REAL PROPERTY, PROBATE AND TRUST LAW
LAW STUDENT WRITING CONTEST**

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Affidavit of Eligibility

Release of Liability

Advertising Release

I, _____, being duly sworn on this _____ day of _____, 20____, state as follows:

1. I have read, understood, have complied with and accept the terms of the Official Rules for the State Bar of Texas Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Student Writing Contest ("Contest").
2. I warrant and represent that (a) I personally wrote the article submitted by me to the Contest, and (b) the article submitted by me has not been published prior to its submission to this Contest.
3. I am currently in good standing, over the age of 18, and am currently attending, or I have graduated from within the last seven (7) months, an ABA accredited law school located in the State of Texas.
4. I hereby release, discharge and hold harmless the SBOT local and state Contest organizers and their successors, assigns, officers, employees and agents associated with the Contest from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, claims, settlements or judgments of any kind whatsoever, including attorneys' fees, whether in contract or in tort, arising directly or indirectly as a result of my participation in the Contest, and my acceptance and use of any prize awarded to me.
5. If selected as a winner, I consent to the use of my name, biographical data, pictures, portraits, photographs, voice, or likeness and the article I entered in the Contest in any form for editorial, advertising, promotional, and trade purposes in connection with the promotion by REPTL and succeeding contests sponsored by the SBOT and/or any of its corporate supporters. I release REPTL, SBOT, and local and state Contest organizers from all liabilities arising out of distortion, optical illusions, or faulty mechanical reproductions of my likeness or of any article I submit to the Contest.

I acknowledge that I have no right to approve the advertising or promotional materials that include my likeness or article I submit to the Contest.

Title of Article

Entrant's Printed Name

Law School & Date of Expected Graduation

Entrant's Signature

Date

Date of Birth

e-mail address

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone Number

PUBLICITY RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

In connection with and as a condition of my participation in the State Bar of Texas
Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law ("REPTL") Law Student Writing
Contest ("Contest"):

1. If selected as a winner, I grant to the State Bar of Texas and REPTL the right to reproduce, publish, and use, on its website and in any other form, my article, name, photograph, likeness, biographical information, and statements made by me, whether oral or written. The SBOT and REPTL may edit or modify these materials, and my article, and may use them anywhere at any time in any medium, without compensation to me. If the SBOT or REPTL propose to use the materials other than in connection with the Contest, I shall have the right to approve the SBOT or REPTL's activities, including any modifications of the substance of my content, with respect to the use of such materials.
2. If selected as a winner, I hereby assign all rights in my oral and written statements, including the copyright, to the SBOT and REPTL and acknowledge that I will have no further rights in them.
3. I, for myself and anyone related to me, release the SBOT or anyone acting on the SBOT or REPTL's behalf, from any and all damages and expenses that I may incur arising from or relating to my participation in the Contest.
4. I will indemnify and hold harmless the SBOT and REPTL and anyone acting on the SBOT or REPTL's behalf from any and all damages, expenses, claims, and causes of action that any other party may have against me or the SBOT or REPTL arising from or relating to my participation in the Contest.

PRINT FULL NAME

SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

DATE

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