Introduction

The Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries announces the first annual Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition.

The American Association of Law Libraries promotes the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, fosters the profession of law librarianship, and provides leadership in the field of legal information. With over 5,000 members, the Association represents law librarians who are affiliated with a wide range of institutions: law schools; law firms; corporate legal departments; courts; and local, state and federal government agencies.

The Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section promotes the study and appreciation of legal history, rare books, and legal archives among members of the law library profession. It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information concerning all aspects of these subjects, publishes a newsletter, and sponsors speakers and programs at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries.

The essay competition is named in honor of Professor Morris L. Cohen, one of the founders of the Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section and an eminent scholar. Morris Cohen is Professor Emeritus of Law at Yale Law School. His scholarly work is in the fields of legal research, rare books, and historical bibliography.

The Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition is jointly sponsored by the Legal History Rare Books Special Interest Section and Gale Cengage Learning, a world leader in e-research and educational publishing for libraries, schools and business.

The purpose of the Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Contest is to encourage scholarship in the areas of legal history, rare law books, and legal archives, and to expose students to the American Association of Law Libraries and law librarianship through their attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Eligibility

Currently enrolled students attending accredited graduate programs in library science, law, history, or related subjects are eligible to enter the competition. Students may be enrolled either full- or part-time. Membership in the American Association of Law Libraries is not required.

Members of the Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition Committee and current officers of the Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section are ineligible. Other members of the American Association of Law Libraries are eligible if they meet other eligibility requirements.
Requirements

Papers may be on any topic related to legal history, rare law books, or legal archives. The subject should be explored in depth with appropriate reference to sources.

No paper, or portion of a paper, that has been published or accepted for publication before April 15, 2009 will be eligible for consideration. Before submitting a paper, all authors are responsible for having conducted a search to ensure that a substantially similar paper has not been published elsewhere. Papers submitted for courses are acceptable.

Co-authored papers are acceptable, as long as each author meets the eligibility requirements. Winners of a co-authored paper will share the $500 prize and will share the award for travel expenses to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries. Students may submit more than one paper.

Authors must provide evidence of current enrollment in a graduate program in law, library science, history or a related subject.

Procedures

Each submission must be accompanied by a short abstract, a completed Application Form, and evidence of enrollment in graduate school. Submit the paper and supporting materials to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Send material to:
Daniel Blackaby at dblackaby@wsulaw.edu
Western State Univ. College of Law
1111 North State College Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92831

Papers and all supporting documentation must be emailed or postmarked by April 15, 2009. The winner will be announced by May 15.

Papers will be reviewed by the Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition Committee. Reviewing will be blind. Essays will be judged on the quality of research and analysis, as well as clarity of writing, grammar and syntax. All decisions of the Committee are final. The Committee reserves the right to not award a prize every year.

Form Requirements


Winning papers that are accepted for publication in *Law Library Journal* will be required to follow the guidelines set forth in AALL’s “*Law Library Journal Author’s Guide,”* available at: http://www.aallnet.org/products/llj_authors_guide.asp

Prize

The winner will receive from Gale Cengage Learning a $500 prize. In addition, the winner will receive up to $1000 to be applied towards travel, lodging, food and other expenses associated with attendance at the Annual Meeting. (Gale Cengage and the Legal History and Rare Books SIS will each contribute to the travel expenses.)

Presentation and Publication of Winning Entry

Attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting is strongly encouraged, but not required. The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held July 25-28 in Washington, D.C. Winners will receive recognition at the Association-wide Awards Luncheon and at the Business Meeting of the Legal History and Rare Books SIS. Winners will also have the opportunity to present their paper at the Legal History and Rare Books SIS Roundtable or at a program during the Meeting.

The winner may submit the winning paper to the Editor of *Law Library Journal* for publication. Should the Editor not deem it suitable for publication, the Committee may suggest other publication venues to the award winner.

Questions may be directed to Katherine Hedin, University of Minnesota Law Library: k-hedi@umn.edu or Jennie Meade, Jacob Burns Law Library, George Washington University: jmeade@law.gwu.edu