



**LEGAL HISTORY & RARE BOOKS
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**



THE MORRIS L. COHEN STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

THE COMPETITION

The Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section (LH&RB) of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) announces the 13th annual Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition. The Competition is named in honor of the late Morris L. Cohen of Yale Law School, one of the founders of LH&RB and an eminent scholar of legal research, rare books, and historical bibliography.

The purpose of the Competition is to encourage scholarship in the areas of legal history, rare law books and legal archives, and to acquaint students with AALL and law librarianship. The Competition is jointly sponsored by LH&RB and Gale, a Cengage company, a world leader in e-research and educational publishing for libraries, schools and business.

AALL 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. LH&RB promotes the study and appreciation of legal history and rare books among members of the law library profession.

ELIGIBILITY

- Full and part-time students currently enrolled in accredited graduate programs in library science, law, history, or related fields are eligible to enter the competition.
- Membership in AALL is not required.
- The competition is open to students attending graduate school either in the United States or abroad, and students need not be U.S. citizens to enter. Students attending foreign graduate schools who submit entries to the competition may be asked to provide evidence of current accreditation of their schools by the appropriate government or administrative entities.
- Entrants must provide evidence of current enrollment by submitting one of the following: official or unofficial transcript, registrar's written confirmation of enrollment, or faculty member letter on school letterhead confirming enrollment.
- Previous winners of the competition are ineligible; previous contestants may submit papers in succeeding years if they continue to meet eligibility requirements.
- Members of the Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition Committee and current officers of LH&RB are ineligible to enter the competition; other members of AALL are eligible if they meet the qualifications above.



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REQUIREMENTS

- *Topic:* Essays may address any topic related to legal history, rare law books, or legal archives; criteria on which papers will be judged include originality of topic or approach, quality and depth of research and analysis, clarity of presentation and contribution to the field. The subject should be explored in depth with appropriate reference to sources.
- *Word count:* Essays should be at least 5,000 words and no more than 10,000 words (excluding footnotes). The Committee anticipates entries in the range of approximately 20 to 30 double-spaced pages, including footnotes (preferred) or endnotes, but entries must fall within the word count requirements regardless of page length.
- *Citation:* Citations should be clear, consistent, and follow one of the following styles: *The Indigo Book* ([freely available online](#)), *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (21st ed., 2020), or *The Chicago Manual of Style* (17th ed., 2017).
- *Not previously published:* No essay or portion of an essay that has been published, or submitted or accepted for publication before May 15, 2023, will be eligible for consideration. Before submitting an essay, authors are responsible for having conducted a search to ensure that a substantially similar paper has not been published elsewhere.
- *One entry per student:* Only one essay may be entered per student.
- *Co-authored essays:* Essays may be co-authored if each author meets the eligibility requirements. Co-authors of a winning paper will share the cash prize and be invited to present the winning paper together via webinar.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

THE ENTRY PACKAGE

- 2023 entry form
- Evidence of current enrollment (see Eligibility section above)
- Abstract of essay
- Essay
- Bibliography of Works Consulted



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ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

- The entry package must be submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m., May 15, 2023 (EDT) to lhrb.sis@gmail.com. Entries submitted after this time will not be accepted.
- You will receive confirmation that your submission has been received. If you do not receive a confirmation within 7 days, please contact Linda Tesar at lktesar@wm.edu.
- Before submitting your entry package, please ensure that your name does not appear on any page of your essay or abstract or in the document's file name.
- LH&RB and AALL are not responsible for incomplete, lost, stolen, late, misdirected or misplaced entries.

REVIEW OF ESSAYS

- Essays are reviewed by the Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition Committee.
- Review of essays is anonymous, and committee decisions are final.

PRIZES AND RECOGNITION

- The Committee selects winning and runner-up essays, though the Committee also reserves the right to not award a prize or prizes in any given year.
- The author of the first-place essay will receive a \$1000 prize from Gale, a Cengage company.
- The author of the winning and runner-up essays will have the opportunity to publish their essays in LH&RB's online annual scholarly journal *Unbound: A Review of Legal History and Rare Books*.



PRESENTATION AND PUBLICATION OF WINNING ENTRY

- The author of the winning essay will present his or her paper at national webinar sponsored by the LH&RB SIS.
- The author of the winning and runner-up papers also are invited to submit their entries to *Unbound*, the official journal of LH&RB, for publication.

Please direct any questions to Linda Tesar (lktesar@wm.edu), chair of the Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition Committee.