



2017 Law Reform Committee Essay Competition Application Form

Applicants are to complete **Sections A, B, and D.**
Section C is to be completed by your **Pupil/Academic Supervisor.**

Completed forms should be returned **no later than 17:00 on Friday 29 September 2017** to
LawReform@BarCouncil.org.uk. Please note that **no exceptions will be made.**

Section A – Personal details

Title: Forename(s): Surname:
Address:
.....
Postcode:
Telephone: E-mail:

Section B – Details of training

Name of educational institution:
If you are in pupillage/hold an offer of pupillage please confirm the name of your pupillage
training organisation:
Address:
.....
Postcode:
Name of course:
Name of Supervisor/Academic Supervisor:
Position in organisation:
Telephone: Email:

I confirm that the information I have provided is correct and that I understand the terms and
conditions of the scheme, as detailed in the guidance document.

Signature: Date:

Section C – Authorisation

To be signed by the Supervisor/Academic Supervisor

I confirm that the entrant named above is entitled to submit an entry to the Bar Council Law
Reform Essay Competition 2016 as *(a) being in pupillage, (b) having an offer of pupillage, (c)
undertaking the academic or vocational stage of training for the Bar, or (d) completed the Bar
Professional Training Course within the last five years and is actively seeking pupillage.

Signature: Date: *Delete as applicable



2017 Law Reform Committee Essay Competition

The Competition

The subject of law reform has a continuing and dynamic bearing upon the development of jurisprudence and the just application of the legal system. It can be observed from many angles: legislative, either national, regional or pan European, within global treaties or the statements of the UN or similar institutions, by court decisions, or the pressure of public opinion. The Law Reform Committee of the Bar Council is concerned to demonstrate the importance of, and to foster an interest in, law reform and to that end is promoting this prize essay competition.

The competition is open to pupils, students studying for a qualifying law degree or approved Graduate Diploma in Law course, Bar Professional Training Course students in England & Wales and those aiming for a career at the Bar.

The Topic

Entrants are invited to submit an essay of not more than 3,000 words (excluding references and footnotes) which identifies and makes the case for a law reform that is desirable, practical and useful.

The successful entry will be that which best demonstrates to the judge not only the quality of ideas and research of the author, but the practicality and utility of the proposed reform.

Please include the title of your essay but do not write your name anywhere on your essay. Essays are anonymised for marking.

The Prizes

£4,000 - Winner

£2,500 - Runner up

£1,500 - Best GDL entry

£1,000 - Runner up GDL entry

2 x £500 - Highly commended prizes

**All awards will be presented at the Law Reform
Lecture on Friday 15 December 2017.**



2017 Law Reform Committee Essay Competition

The Rules

1. The Competition is open to anyone who satisfies any one or more of the following criteria when they submit their essay:
- a) A person who is undertaking a pupillage, as defined in the Bar Training Regulations of the Bar Standards Board, which is registered with the Bar Standards Board.
 - b) A person who holds an offer of such a pupillage, which will be registered in the pupillage year 2017/18 or 2018/19.
 - c) A person who:
 - i. is undertaking the academic stage of training for the Bar (that is to say studying for a qualifying degree in law or Graduate Diploma in Law course) during the academic session 2017/18, or is or will be doing so during the academic session 2017/18, save for those with a settled intention not to become a practising member of the Bar of England and Wales; or
 - ii. is undertaking the vocational stage of training for the Bar (that is to say the Bar Professional Training Course) during the academic session 2017/18, or is or will be doing so during the academic session 2017/18.
 - iii. completed the Bar Professional Training Course within the last five years and is actively seeking pupillage.

For a list of qualifying law degrees and approved GDL courses please refer to the Bar Standards Board website (www.BarStandardsBoard.org.uk).

2. Essays should identify and make the case for a law reform that is desirable, practical and useful. Essays must be about a reform to English, Welsh or European law. Essays must be of no more than 3000 words (excluding references and footnotes), typed and in double line spacing. Essays should be submitted by email to LawReform@BarCouncil.org.uk and should include a word count. **Please include the title of your essay but do not write your name anywhere on your essay. Essays are anonymised for marking.**

3. The essay must be the sole creation and original work of the entrant. The essay must not have been submitted to this or any other essay competition in previous years. Guidance on plagiarism is attached; any form of plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification. Entrants must not submit an essay which is in substance the same as one submitted in a previous year. An essay may be a reworked piece of the entrant's course work provided that it was originally the sole creation of the entrant.



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4. Entries must be approved by the Pupil Supervisor or Academic Supervisor, whose signature is to warrant that the entrant falls within the appropriate category.
5. No person may submit more than one essay for each annual competition.
6. The award winners grant the Bar Council the right to publish or reproduce at any time all or part of the award winning entries.
7. The prizes on offer are stated above. Entrants cannot win more than one prize in any one year. The award of all or any of the prizes lies solely within the discretion of the judges. The judges' decision will be final.
8. The deadline for the receipt of entries is 17:00 on Friday 29 September 2017 to LawReform@BarCouncil.org.uk. **Please note that late entries cannot be accepted.**
9. All entries will be acknowledged. Unfortunately, we do not have capacity to provide feedback on unsuccessful entries.
10. Winners are entitled to refer to the achievement on their CV.
11. It is anticipated that the prize-winners will be announced, and prize presented at the annual Law Reform Lecture on Friday 15 December 2017.
12. The decision of the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman of the Law Reform Committee of the Bar Council on the interpretation of these Rules will be final.



2017 Law Reform Committee Essay Competition

Plagiarism: Guidance and Penalty

Guidance

The Bar Council is concerned about the submission of plagiarised essays in its competition by a small minority of entrants. This Guidance is provided to prevent the submission of such essays.

The essay must be the sole creation and original work of the entrant.

Entrants are expected already to be aware of any plagiarism guidance and policies of the academic and professional training institutions to which they currently belong or have belonged. The Bar Council's guidance reproduces and adapts information from two such policies for the purposes of its Essay Competition. The Bar Council is grateful to both institutions for permission to do so.

Plagiarism occurs where an entrant copies from any other source (published or unpublished) in an unauthorised manner and attempts to present that work as if it were the entrant's own in order to obtain an unfair advantage.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Submitting someone else's work as your own.
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
- Giving misleading information about the source of a quotation.
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.
- Copying so many words from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

Quotations from recognised sources are usually acceptable, but must be clearly acknowledged and a reference given for the source (i.e. sources must be cited). The following situations almost always require citation:

- Whenever you use quotes.
- Whenever you paraphrase.
- Whenever you use an idea that someone else has already expressed.
- Whenever you make specific reference to the work of another.
- Whenever someone else's work has been critical in developing your own ideas.

In the case of any doubt, citation is recommended.



2017 Law Reform Committee Essay Competition

The Bar Council may proactively seek out instances of plagiarism, for example by the use of an electronic plagiarism detection system or service to scan submitted essays prior to their assessment.

Penalty

Any entry which is found not to be the sole creation and original work of the entrant (“plagiarism”) will be disqualified from the Law Reform Essay Competition.

Where plagiarism is found after the making of an award to the entrant, the entry will be disqualified and the entrant must return the award and any prize money to the Bar Council. The essay will be removed from the Bar Council website and the entrant must not refer to the award as one on their achievements (whether on their CV, personal website etc.).

Whenever plagiarism is found in any essay submitted for the competition the Bar Council reserves the right in serious cases to report the matter to the entrant’s:

1. Place of academic study.
2. Inn of Court (or intended Inn of Court).
3. Chambers (or intended chambers).
4. Relevant professional representative or regulatory body.

Section D - Confirmation

(See Rule 3)

I confirm that the essay I am submitting to the Law Reform Committee Essay Competition 2017 is my sole creating and original work. I have read and understood the attached guidance on plagiarism.

Signature: Date:

Please tick the practice area to which your essay most relates:

- | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Criminal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Intellectual Property | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Law/Human Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Civil | <input type="checkbox"/> | Financial | <input type="checkbox"/> | International | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family | <input type="checkbox"/> | Medical Negligence/PI | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chancery | <input type="checkbox"/> | Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> | |