You went to law school—you’re invested in the jury system.

Make a difference & maybe take home some money, too.

The University of Washington School of Law and the Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington are again sponsoring the William L. Dwyer Jury Project Award writing competition. Only UW Law Students (2L/3L) can enter.

First prize this year is $2,500. A second prize of $1,000 may also be awarded.

To enter, write a paper on the American jury system. Polish and submit a paper you are already writing for a class, or write a paper specifically for the competition. The paper can be a traditional law-review-style article, an essay or magazine-style article, an empirical analysis (e.g., of jury composition or awards in one or more jurisdictions or types of cases), etc.

Deadline for submissions: April 18, 2014
(Rules and eligibility requirements begin on next page.)

Who is William L. Dwyer? The Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington and the University of Washington established the William L. Dwyer Jury Project Award in memory of the Hon. William L. Dwyer, a universally respected Western Washington trial lawyer and federal judge. Prizes are available thanks to generous donations from local lawyers who wanted to celebrate and support Judge Dwyer’s commitment to the American jury system and the education of young lawyers.
The William L. Dwyer Jury Project Award
A writing competition for UW Law Students

CRITERIA FOR AWARD

One or more awards may be given. A winning submission will exemplify all of the following qualities:

1. The submission must represent an original and significant addition to the literature on the American jury system. Appropriate topics include: the workings of the American jury system, its history, comparisons with other systems of legal decision-making, the benefits to democracy that the jury system provides, the jury’s role in society, critiques of the jury system, ways in which it can be improved, and other aspects of juries and the jury system. Examples of acceptable types of papers include analytical pieces, descriptive essays, magazine-style articles, and empirical analyses (e.g., of jury composition or awards in one or more jurisdictions or types of cases), but this list is not exhaustive.

2. The submission must reflect thorough research and understanding of the selected topic. The submission should not simply survey previously published analyses. It must instead provide either new information or data about juries or the jury system or an original analysis of previously published materials.

3. The submission must be well-written. At a minimum, that means that it must reflect proper grammar, syntax and spelling, it must have a clear thesis, and it must be effectively organized to develop, explain and support that thesis in a persuasive and interesting manner.

4. The submission should be informative, and interesting to its intended audience, whether that audience is attorneys, judges, legislators, academics, the public, or some other relevant group. The writing style, including the number and content of any supporting footnotes, should be appropriate to the intended audience, although authors of submissions directed to lay audiences are advised to err on the side of providing sufficient references so that the review board committee can assess the quality of the underlying research.

5. The submission's format must conform to the terms and conditions below.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. This competition is open to all students at the University of Washington School of Law who have completed at least one year of law school in the pursuit of a J.D. or L.L.M. degree (or equivalent degree) at an accredited U.S. law school (including the University of Washington School of Law).

2. Entries may be submitted either electronically as an email attachment to lawadm@uw.edu (Subject Line: Dwyer Competition Submission), or in a hard copy delivered to the Law School’s Office of Admissions & Financial Aid. If submitting by email, the email must specify the author’s name, address, the law school(s) the author has attended and the years of study completed at each law school, and the author’s expected date of graduation from the University of Washington School of Law. Hard copy submissions must also include a disk/CD copy of the submission along with the author’s information required above. The author’s name should not appear anywhere on the work being submitted, in whatever form.

3. Entries must be between 1500 and 2500 words in length (excluding footnotes). The word count must be included with the entry. Entries must be typed and double-spaced (except for footnotes) in either Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect format, although Microsoft Word is preferable. Font must not be smaller than 12 point and margins should be at least one inch all around. Pages must be numbered.

4. All citations must be in accordance with the rules of The Bluebook: A Uniform System Of Citation (latest edition).

5. Citations should be in footnotes rather than endnotes.

6. All entries must be received by 5 PM Seattle time on April 18, 2014. If submitting by email, competition entrants should save a copy of the submission email for proof of delivery time and date.

7. All entries will be assigned a random, anonymous number for judging purposes.

8. The review board will decide how many awards will be made, and the review board has the discretion to decide not to make any award. The winner will be notified after all judging is complete. All decisions by the review board concerning the award will be final.

9. By submitting a work in this competition, the entrant submitting that work: (a) agrees to be bound by these terms and conditions; (b) grants to the Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington a royalty free, non-exclusive, worldwide, sublicensable, irrevocable license to directly and indirectly reproduce, distribute, publicly perform and display, and otherwise publish that work.