



Human Rights Essay Contest Guidelines



Thomas H. Wilson Human Rights Scholarship Award | 2025–2026

The International Human Rights Committee (IHRC) of the State Bar of Texas International Law Section (ILS) sponsors this annual essay contest as part of its commitment to provide information and guidance on international human rights issues to Texas lawyers and law students. The contest is open to any **U.S. law student** with a personal or essay nexus to Texas (e.g. Texas law school, Texas resident, topic addressing Texas, etc.).

PRIZES

A first-place prize of \$1,500 will be awarded for the best entry as judged by representatives from the Section. If sufficient entries are received, second and third place prizes may also be given. The winner(s) will also be publicly recognized at a Section sponsored event. Additionally, essay(s) may be offered publication in the Section's online newsletter, *Global Law Review*.

SUBMISSION

Submissions are due **April 30, 2026** on or before 11:59 PM (Central Standard Time) and should be sent by email attachment to Diana Marin at admin@ilstexas.org. The email should have the subject header "Human Rights Essay Contest" and contain the contact information for the author(s). The contestant's name and other identifying markings such as school name are not to be listed in the attached document.

GUIDELINES

The essay may address any aspect of international human rights law that the contestant chooses. There are no minimum or maximum word limits, and paper should be double-spaced, with twelve-point font and one-inch margins in a Microsoft Word or similar format (no PDFs). Again, the contestant's name and other identifying markings such as school name are not to be included in the document.

RULES

The first-place winner will be required to submit a completed W-9 form prior to receiving the award and is responsible for all taxes associated with the award. The ideas and work reflected by each entry must be the author's or author's own. This contest is governed by U.S. law and all relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. The winner will be required to submit proof of eligibility.