

# AMICUS ESSAY COMPETITION RULES

## **A. Eligibility criteria**

1. The essay must answer the prescribed title: 'The role of the jury: should individuals who are not experts be able to decide whether someone is sentenced to death?'.
2. The essay must not exceed 1500 words including footnotes. No essay longer than this will be considered by the judges.
3. The competition is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate law students, both members and non-members of the European Law Students' Association (ELSA), who are studying at a registered academic institution in the UK and Ireland. This includes students on law conversion courses. The competition is also open to first year trainee barristers and trainee solicitors who are currently enrolled on the appropriate legal training course.
4. Board Members of ELSA UK and ELSA Ireland, or employees of any organisation involved with the competition, are not permitted to enter.
5. A decision on the eligibility of each entrant can be taken by ELSA UK and ELSA Ireland in their absolute discretion.
6. Essays must be individually authored and only one entry per person is allowed.
7. The essay must be the original work of the author and may be checked for plagiarism. Any essay that is found to be plagiarized will automatically be disqualified.
8. The deadline for entries is 31st January 2019 at 23:59 GMT.

### Presentation of the entry

9. All entries must be in English and properly referenced according to the OSCOLA referencing style.
10. Essays should be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font and 1.5 spacing, justified text.
11. The essay cannot have been submitted to another competition or for publication in any journal or other publication.
12. All essays must be sent in MS Word format to [academicactivities@uk.elsa.org](mailto:academicactivities@uk.elsa.org) with the subject line "Amicus Essay Competition 2018"
13. The entrant's name cannot appear on any other page as judging of the competition will be anonymous.

## **B. Judging**

14. In order to ensure objectivity, ELSA UK and ELSA Ireland will give each entrant a reference number on receipt of the essay which will then be used throughout the judging process.
15. The submissions will first be judged by the appointed Preliminary Judging Panel ("the Panel") and the decision of the judges will be final.
16. ELSA UK and ELSA Ireland, the Boards will then compile a shortlist of essays on the recommendation of the Panel.

17. Finally, this shortlist will be sent for consideration by the final judge, Mark George QC, who will declare the winning essay and the runner-up essay.

18. ELSA UK and ELSA Ireland will acknowledge receipt of entries but will not be able to give feedback on entries or enter into any further correspondence with entrants.

**C. Copyright**

19. Copyright of the winning entries shall become the copyright of ELSA UK and ELSA Ireland.

**D. Prizes**

20. The author of the winning essay will win 2-week Work Experience Placement in Amicus ALJ's London office. Additionally, the winning essay shall be featured in the third edition of the Student Comparative and European Law Review (SCELR).

21. The author of the runner-up essay will be awarded a prize – TBC.