

THE MTYBA RULE OF LAW ESSAY COMPETITION 2023

Rules & Guidelines

Building upon our commitment to examining and promoting the rule of law, Middle Temple Young Barristers' Association is proud to launch the 'Rule of Law Essay Competition' 2023.

A prize of £500 will be awarded to a member of the Middle Temple Young Barristers' Association for the winning essay examining ...

Rules

- **Deadline:** the deadline for submission is 23.00pm on Sunday 24 September 2023. Late entries will not be accepted.
- **Word limit:** the word limit for this competition is 2,000 words. This does not include footnotes, however, footnotes must only be used for reference purposes and must not include analysis.
- **Format:** entries must be typed and clearly marked with your membership number and dated. Do not include your name in the essay. Entries must be sent as a double-spaced word document to enquiries@mtymba.org by the submission deadline and be accompanied by a completed cover sheet.
- **Plagiarism:** the document '*Essay Prizes - Plagiarism: Guidance and Penalty*' published by Middle Temple applies to this competition, except that for "the Inn" substitute "MTYBA". For ease of access, this is reproduced below.

"Essay Prizes - Plagiarism: Guidance and Penalty"

Guidance

- The Inn is concerned about the potential 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 creation and original work of the entrant alone.
- Entrants are expected 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 Inn's guidance reproduces and adapts information from the BPTC Handbook for the purposes of this essay competition.
- Plagiarism occurs where an entrant copies from any other source (published or unpublished) in an unauthorised manner and attempts to present that work as if it were the entrant's own in order to obtain an unfair advantage.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.

The Inn may seek out instances of plagiarism proactively, 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 entirely the creation and original work of the entrant ('plagiarised') will be disqualified from the 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 Inn. The entrant must not refer to the award as one on their achievements (whether on their CV, personal website or in any other form.)."
- If plagiarism is discovered, MTYBA may draw this to the attention of the Under Treasurer of Middle Temple and if applicable, your employer or Head of Chambers.