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ESCL Essay Prize – General information

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Are you a young professional or student and have you written an essay on a construction law relevant topic then you might be eligible for the ESCL Essay Prize!

Entries must be submitted between 1 January and 1 July 2023 and the maximum length of entry is 5000 words.

Introduction

The European Society of Construction Law (ESCL) comprises 19 national construction law societies. The Society promotes education, research and study in the field of construction law.

The ESCL Masters Thesis Prize

In 2012, ESCL launched an annual competition for theses on construction law submitted as part of a University Master's degree. In the nine years since its inception, awards were made to students of many nationalities from universities in five different countries and the ESCL Masters Thesis Prize became recognised as a prestigious international competition.

The new ESCL Essay Prize

After a decade of the Masters Thesis Prize, the ESCL General Assembly commissioned a review of the competition by the Society's Board with two main objectives:

- to extend eligibility beyond students, to include young professionals, practitioners and academics;
- to encourage entries from more member states.

A Thesis Prize Review Committee was appointed and the new ESCL Essay Prize proposal is the result of its work.

What type of essays can be submitted?

Only papers concerning construction law will be considered. Construction law is widely defined to include the following subject areas, which are provided as examples, not as an exhaustive list:

- Construction and engineering contracts;
- Contract administration;
- Procurement law;
- PFI/PPP;
- Professional liability of architects or engineers;
- Building regulations and control;
- Construction insurance;
- Law relating to transfer of buildings and real estate;
- Torts in construction;
- Construction disputes and their avoidance/resolution including mediation, dispute boards, arbitration and litigation.

Everyone who has written an essay on one of the topics above or another topic in the field of construction law is kindly invited to submit an entry for the ESCL Essay Prize. (The regulations of the prize contain further requirements for admission and can be downloaded from the ESCL website: www.escl.org).

Judging entries in the new competition

The ESCL Board will appoint a Jury to judge the entries received each year, comprising 3 or 5 members who are distinguished practitioners and academics from different European jurisdictions.

Prizes in the new competition

The two major awards in the ESCL Essay Prize will be:

1st Prize € 2500

2nd Prize € 1000

In addition, the Jury may award (a) Commendation(s).

The award ceremony will take place at the annual ESCL Conference.

Winners of the award or commendation may be invited to submit a version of their entries to be considered for publication by the International Construction Law Review.