



Oifig an Phríomh
Aturnae Stáit
Chief State
Solicitor's Office

Law Student Essay Competition Notice

The Chief State Solicitor's Office (the "CSSO") is delighted to announce that it has launched a student essay competition.

The essay title is:

"The Irish Courts have demonstrated that the Irish Constitution is a living document which evolves in line with societal developments and values. Discuss whether you agree or disagree and support your position with relevant case law from within the past ten years."

The Competition:

1. The competition is open to anyone who is currently an undergraduate or postgraduate degree student of law (ie Level 8 or 9 NFQ) enrolled in a third-level institution on the island of Ireland, or who is within one year of expiration of such enrolment.
2. The essay may be submitted in English or in Irish (as Gaeilge).
3. The essay must not exceed 2,000 words excluding footnotes and listing of references.
4. The essay must be accompanied by the following declaration: "I confirm that this essay is entirely my own independent and original work, representing my best efforts on the topic. It is written in my own words, save where an express reference or citation is included."

The declaration should be inserted into the essay as the cover page at the front. An essay submitted without a declaration will not be deemed a valid entry and will be excluded from the competition.

5. All essays must be typed and submitted electronically (both in word and pdf format) to the email address provided (EssayCompetitionCSSO@csso.gov.ie).
6. The cover email submitting the essay must provide details of: entrant's name, contact email and telephone number, University/College, degree programme, and enrolment particulars (eg which year).
7. The closing date for receipt of essays is 5pm on 5 April 2024.
8. There will be three prizes: 1st prize €500, 2nd prize €250, 3rd prize €150.



Oifig an Phríomh
Aturnae Stáit
Chief State
Solicitor's Office

Law Student Essay Competition Notice

Evaluation:

Entries will be assessed by a Judging Panel which will be composed of senior lawyers within the CSSO. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- relevance of content to Irish Constitutional Law
- depth and breadth of analysis
- clarity of presentation and argument
- appropriate references to caselaw
- originality
- writing style/quality

The decision of the Judging Panel shall be absolute and final. There shall be no appeal against the decision of the Judging Panel and the CSSO reserves the right not to make an award/designate a prize(s) in a given year. The top three entrants will be invited to a prize-giving presentation in the CSSO in May 2024. They will have the opportunity to meet with the Chief State Solicitor, Ms Maria Browne and senior lawyers from across the various practice areas of the CSSO.

Data Protection:

The CSSO complies fully with its obligations under Data Protection law. We collect your data from the information you provide to us when you enter this competition. Your personal data will be used for the purposes of managing and administering the competition. This processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by us, as the controller of competition data. Winners of the competition will be announced through our various communication channels. The announcements may include photographs taken with the Chief State Solicitor and other CSSO staff. We will seek the consent of the data subject prior to any photo being taken. The CSSO will hold your personal data as long as is necessary for the purpose of administering the competition.

Key Dates

5 April 2024

Essays to be submitted to EssayCompetitionCSSO@csso.gov.ie by 5pm

6 April to 30 April 2024

Judging of essays

May 2024 (date to be confirmed)

Top three entrants will be invited to the Chief State Solicitor's Office for a prize-giving reception