

ANNOUNCEMENT

16 April 2021

Prize Fund Essay Competition

Introduction and eligibility

The inaugural West London Law Society (WLLS) Essay Competition is open to eligible persons who fall within one or more of the following as of 9 July 2021:

- solicitor apprentice
- Legal Practice Course student/graduate
- LLB/Graduate Diploma in Law student/graduate.
- trainee solicitor
- solicitor admitted up to three years

To be eligible, a participant must now or previously have been studying and/or be currently employed or residing in the WLLS membership area. This comprises the whole of the London Boroughs of Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham, and those parts of the London Borough of the City of Westminster north of Bayswater Road and Oxford Street.

The closing date is Friday 9 July 2021 at 5pm. Entries must be sent by email to the Hon Secretary of WLLS at jc@helaw.co.uk

Essay Title

“Is access to justice the cornerstone of a democratic society under the rule of law? If so, why? If not, why not?”

The essay should address the above question (i) from the standpoint of the law of England and Wales and (ii) in the light of relevant primary and secondary sources.

These sources include but are not limited to the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom in *R (Unison) v Lord Chancellor* [2017] UKSC 51 (freely available at www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2015-0233.html) and the resources on access to justice on the website of the Law Society of England and Wales (at www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/access-to-justice/).

Prize

The author of the winning entry will receive a prize of £500.00 plus one year's free WLLS membership and a Certificate of Achievement. In addition, the winning entry will be published on the WLLS website, and may be published elsewhere. At the discretion of the judging panel, any highly commended entry may also be published.

Competition rules

1 The essay must be submitted as a Word document, free from any restrictions on access, attached to an email sent to the Hon Secretary of WLLS at jc@helaw.co.uk to be received by no later than 5.00 pm on **Friday 9 July 2021**.

2 The essay must be typed with Arial 12 point for the main text and Arial 10 point for any footnotes. The text must be subject to 1.5 line spacing. It must not exceed 1,500 words (excluding any footnotes embodying references and any bibliography). The essay need not include a bibliography. Any Latin expressions or foreign words must be italicised.

3 Any references in any footnotes or bibliography must comply with the OSCOLA Quick Reference Guide, as published by Oxford University Press at www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012quickreferenceguide.pdf (Further details are at www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/publications/oscola)

4 To facilitate anonymity, the essay itself must not specify any personal details of the author. However, the covering email must set out the full names and contact details of the author, and details of his or her eligibility status.

5 Each essay must be the sole creation and original work of the author. It is a condition of the competition that, while each entrant will retain copyright in his or her work, WLLS will have the free right to publish the winning and runner's up essays alongside the names of the authors.

6 The essay judging panel will consist of a number of committee members of WLLS, all of whom are either practising or non-practising solicitors, and will include at least one legal academic. The winner and the runner-up will be announced by no earlier than 30 September 2021.

Data Protection

1 Who is West London Law Society?

WLLS is an unincorporated association, established in 1960, whose objects include the encouragement of legal education.

2 What personal data do we collect?

We obtain your name, and contact and eligibility details along with your essay itself, which are only processed for the administration of the WLLS essay competition.

3 Why do we need your personal data?

We will process your personal data for the purposes of administering the essay competition and, in the case of successful entrants, publicising and promoting WLLS and future such competitions but without disclosing any contact details. We may also retain the winner's details if he or she wishes to apply to take up membership of WLLS

4 What do we do with your personal data?

We will share your entry, but not other details, with the judging panel only, save in the case of successful entrants as stated above.

5 For how long do we retain your data?

We will retain your data and entries for three months after the competition ends, and will then delete them permanently, other than in the case of successful entrants.

6 What are your rights?

You have the right to a copy of any information that we hold about you, to make a complaint, or to request that we no longer use your data. Please refer to the full privacy notice on the WLLS website at www.westlondonls.org.uk at which further details of WLLS may be found.