



March 19, 2007

JMLS Student Newsletter No. 6

**Dean's Message**

Let's talk about writing. First, I encourage every law student to think about writing an article on a topic that interests you. If it is about a legal subject, it might be published in a local or state bar association journal or, if more thoroughly researched, one of the hundreds of law reviews and topical journals. Even if it is a non-legal subject—a hobby or history—any kind of publication is good for improving your resume and sparking the interest of a potential employer. If you are interested in an issue and you don't find that anyone else has said what you want to say, start writing.

Second, there are dozens of writing competitions for law students. Wining entries are usually published, but you can submit entries that don't win a particular competition to another journal. In addition to the publication, there are cash prizes, ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. (If you feel dirty taking money for your article, feel free to donate it to the JMLS scholarship fund.) One of my students won three competitions and two cash prizes with the same paper, but that may not be possible for most competitions. These competitions come up throughout the year. For example, I received an email today about a family law competition, the Schwab Memorial Essay contest. [www.abanet.org/family/lawstudents/schwab.shtml](http://www.abanet.org/family/lawstudents/schwab.shtml) When I was dean at a little school west of here, I started collecting information about student writing contests in one place and I see that they have continued that practice. They won't mind if you use that resource, too. <http://law.pepperdine.edu/dicta/> (at the bottom of the webpage)

Finally, the JMLS law review is coming; there will be more detail about it later in the spring. We will add a course in academic writing for those who work on it. Later, I will urge everyone who is eligible to participate to do so. But, don't wait for our law review. You can write on your own now.

Have a great week!

Dean Lynn

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*This week's announcements:*

- Summer 2007 Registration - Reminder
- Externship Opportunities for Day and Evening Students
- International Association of Defense Counsel 2007 Legal Writing Contest

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**Summer 2007 Registration**

Registration packets will be mailed this week. Please watch your mail for this important information!! Remember, if you have moved, it is your responsibility to ensure your address is up to date with the Registrar's office!

Financial Aid and Parking renewal information will also be included in your registration packet.

Summer 2007 Registration Schedule:

Third-Year part-time students: March 12 - March 16, 2007  
Second-Year part-time students: March 19 - March 21, 2007  
Open Registration: March 22 - March 30, 2007

Drop/Add: May 14 - May 17, 2007  
Drop/Add (One-Week Session): May 14, 2007

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**TO ALL RISING 2L'S AND 3L'S**

If you missed the Externship Meeting, it is not too late. Please stop by Prof. Turner's office (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) to pick up an Externship Information Packet to learn more about the exciting opportunities available to JMLS students. *There are plenty of opportunities for our evening students as well!*

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**International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) 2007 Legal Writing Contest**

The International Association of Defense Counsel announces its 2007 Legal Writing Contest, which is open to students in accredited law schools. Founded in 1920, IADC is an association of lawyers, barristers, solicitors, corporate counsel and insurance executives from 17 nations.

Entries must be the original work of a single author, not previously published, and they must cover the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, or other areas of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense or management of the defense of civil litigation. While entrants are free to take positions on issues, their articles should be expository in nature, and an author's ability to make a thoughtful and balanced presentation will be considered. There is no strict limitation on the length of entries, but succinctness and the frugal use of footnotes are encouraged. (Suggested word limit: 12,000 words, including footnotes). An IADC committee will judge the contest and will award monetary prizes of US \$2,000 for the first place, US \$1,000 for second, and US \$500 for third place. The judges also may award honorable mentions. Winning and honorable mention entries will be considered for publication in the IADC's quarterly, *Defense Counsel Journal*.

Information regarding the contest is also available at [www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm](http://www.iadclaw.org/contest.cfm).

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