



MELBOURNE LAW SCHOOL

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## 2009 Student Published Research Prize

### Guidelines

The Student Published Research Prize is awarded annually for outstanding pieces of writing published by students of the Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne. There are two Prizes of \$1,000 each - one to be awarded to a student who is currently enrolled in or has just completed an LLB or JD degree and the other to be awarded to a postgraduate law student

**Please note:                    Entries must be received by 22 January 2010**  
**Exceptions will not be made to the submission date**

### Criteria for Eligibility

#### ***Publication***

1. The work may be an article, case note or comment in a journal; a book chapter; or a monograph.
2. The journal must be recognised as circulating in Australia or internationally. If the work is a book chapter or a monograph, it must bear the imprint of a commercial publisher (i.e. ISBN). The Chair of the Prize Committee shall be the sole judge of whether the publisher or journal meets these criteria.
3. Publications appearing solely in an electronic form in an independently refereed electronic journal are eligible for the Prize.
4. Applicants may submit only one piece of work for consideration for the prize in any calendar year. Where the student has published more than one piece of work in the publication period, s/he will be invited to submit a list of all published works along with her/his entry.

#### ***Applicants***

1. An applicant must be the author or a co-author of the work submitted.
2. Work that is co-authored with a full-time or fractional-time academic will be ineligible for consideration.
3. Where the work was co-authored by more than one eligible student, it will be deemed to have been submitted jointly by each such student. If the work is awarded the Student Published Research Prize, the Prize will be deemed to have been awarded to those students jointly.
4. The applicant must have been either an LLB/JD student or a postgraduate student in the Melbourne Law School at the time the work was written, and have completed the work as part of either coursework or a program of research conducted within the Law School.
5. Students in the Law School who are full-time or fractional-time academics in a higher education institution within or outside Australia at the time of the submission of the work, or who have held a full-time academic position for more than two years, will be ineligible for the Prize.
6. Students in the Law School who already hold a doctoral degree in law or another related discipline will be ineligible for the Prize.

### **Submission Procedures**

1. To be eligible for the Prize, the work must be either published, or accepted for publication during the period 1 January to 31 December 2009.
2. The closing date for entry in the Prize will be the Friday closest to January 20 in the year following the designated publication period (i.e. Friday 22 January 2010 for the 2009 prize).
3. The author must affiliate the research with the University of Melbourne by identifying him/herself in a footnote as being a student in the Melbourne Law School and identify the work as having been completed as part of a program of study undertaken within the Law School (e.g. *'An earlier draft of this article was submitted as part of coursework undertaken for the LLB in the Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne'*).
4. Where the article has been accepted for publication prior to 31 December, but has not yet appeared in print, it must be accompanied by a copy of a letter of acceptance for publication from the publisher or the editor, dated on or before 31 December.
5. Two copies of the published version of the work must be submitted to the Office for Research (Law) by the closing date, accompanied by the verification evidence as outlined on the application form. Where the work has not been published before the closing date, the applicant may submit the version accepted for publication, but will be required to submit the published version when this becomes available.
6. Students submitting work for consideration for the Prize will be required to sign a declaration that it is their own work except in so far as otherwise acknowledged in the work itself.
7. If the work has been authored by more than one person, the status of each author at the time of writing (e.g. fellow student in the Law School, legal practitioner, etc.) and the contribution of each author to the work (expressed in terms of a percentage) must be stated.
8. The applicant will be asked to identify any member of University staff who is familiar with the work, or version of it forming part of the work completed in a subject or research program undertaken in the Law School.

### **Judging Process**

1. The Chair of the Student Published Research Prize Committee will be the Associate Dean (Research) or his or her nominee.
2. The Chair will have the discretion to remove from consideration entries that do not reach a sufficiently high scholarly standard. The Chair will distribute the remaining publications to academics who are suitably expert in the area (Assessors) but who have not been involved in the development of the publication (e.g. as a teacher or supervisor). Members of the Research Committee will usually be expected to participate in this process if they are sufficiently expert in a relevant area.
3. Entries from LLB/JD students and entries from postgraduates will be treated as entries for the two separate sections of the Prize, and will thus be ranked in two distinct groups.
4. The Assessors will be asked to look at 2 – 4 publications from either the LLB/JD or postgraduate section and to rank them in order. In addition they will be asked to judge the overall merit of publications. The top ranked publications for each Assessor which have also been determined to be of sufficient merit to warrant being awarded the prize will then be distributed to all Assessors for that section. They will be asked to rank these publications and they may communicate with one another for the purpose of doing so. If a majority of the Assessors nominate the same publication then that publication will be awarded the prize for that section. If there is

not a majority opinion, then the Chair of the Committee may decide the outcome in consultation with the relevant Assessors. A meeting of the Assessors in a particular section may be called if the Chair believes that this is warranted.

5. In assessing the work, judging will be guided by criteria such as the following, but need not weight these identically:
  - How significant is the subject of the work?
  - How original is the work - to what extent does it advance existing knowledge?
  - Does the work do more than synthesise previous scholarship?
  - Does the work clearly develop a central argument and support this with persuasive evidence?
  - Is the research methodology adopted suitable and sufficient?
  - Is the work well organised and clearly expressed?
  - Does the work communicate its central argument effectively to a non-specialist, as well as a specialist readership?
6. The Chair will recommend to the Dean the award of each Prize to the winners so selected. In exceptional circumstances, the recommendation may be that each Prize be shared among two or more entrants. The Committee may also decide, in exceptional circumstances, that no work merits award of either Prize for that year.
7. All applicants, including the Prize winner(s) will be notified of the outcome of the judging, once the process is complete.
8. The Chair of the Committee for that year shall be the final arbiter of the interpretation and application of all of the guidelines and criteria referred to above.

### ***Publicity***

1. The Prize will be advertised to both LLB/JD students and postgraduate students well before the due date for submission of entries.
2. The winners will be announced publicly at the Law School's annual Prize Giving Ceremony in the year following the Prize year.