

**American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security**  
**2011 National Security Law Student Writing Competition**  
**“The Constitution and National Security – First Amendment Issues”**

**\*\*Cash Prize and Trip to the Law and National Security Conference in Washington\*\***

**Overview:** The Standing Committee on Law and National Security, founded in 1962 by then-ABA President and later Supreme Court Justice Lewis J. Powell, conducts studies, sponsors programs and conferences, and administers working groups on law and national security-related issues. The Committee's activities assist policymakers, educate lawyers, the media and the public, and enable the Committee to make recommendations and provide advice on such subjects as the legal responses to terrorism, the restructuring of the intelligence community and its role in law enforcement, and operational international law in the conduct of the military. In furtherance of this mission the Standing Committee is proud to announce the 4<sup>th</sup> annual writing competition for law students.

**Topic:** This year's writing competition encourages a scholarly debate regarding current issues affecting US national security, the Constitution and the First Amendment. Protection of the nation from its enemies, foreign and domestic, is a primary obligation of the government. Pursuit of this goal by government officials may involve rights protected by the Constitution -- the guarantees of free speech, privacy, and the freedom of the press. Recently the release of classified documents, as in the current Wikileaks controversy, has generated a robust debate about open access to information and the right to prosecute those who may have committed espionage. Many believe precautions must be taken when our national security is threatened but these precautions must be respectful of our constitutional rights. Airport scans, electronic surveillance and 24/7 public videoing has created a new world of transparency. In our time, responsibility for drawing the line between individual rights, press freedoms and society's obligation to protect itself has become a critical legal challenge.

Consider some of the cases in which the necessity to draw these lines has arisen. How should those lines be drawn and in what circumstances? You may look to other countries and take a comparative perspective. You may consider, but need not limit yourself, to the constitutional implications and national security concerns in cases ranging from the Pentagon Papers to Wikileaks to *Holder vs. Humanitarian Law Project*.

**Prize:** The winning essay will receive a cash prize of \$500 and free registration to the 21st Annual Review of the Field of National Security Law Conference held in Washington, DC. In addition to registration for the conference, the prize will include reimbursement for coach travel and one night's lodging. Additionally, the essay will be published in the *National Security Law Report*. Winner must be present at the conference to receive the award.

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to all students who are in attendance at an ABA accredited law school between September 1, 2010 and August 15, 2011. Only original and previously unpublished papers are eligible. Papers prepared for law school credit are eligible provided they are original work. Jointly authored papers are not eligible. Entrants can have a faculty member or practicing lawyer review and critique their work, but the submission must be the student's own work product. The name of the reviewing professor or lawyer must be noted on the entry. Committee members, staff, and selection committee members shall not participate in the contest or review process. Only one essay may be submitted per entrant.

**Format:** Essays may not exceed 5,000 words, including title, citations, and footnotes. Essays over 5,000 words will be rejected. The text of the essay must be double-spaced, with twelve-point font and one-inch margins. Entries should reflect the style of ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security's *National Security Law Report* articles rather than law review style. Entrants are encouraged to review past copies of the News available at <http://www.abanet.org/natsecurity/> - prior to drafting their submissions. Citations must be embedded in text, as opposed to citations in footnotes. Cites must conform with *The Bluebook: Uniform System of Citation*.

**Entry Procedure:** Each submission must include a SEPARATE COVER PAGE (not included in the 5,000 word count) with the entrant's name, law school, year of study, mailing and email address, and phone number. The contestant's name and other identifying markings, such as school name, MAY NOT appear on any copy of the submitted essay.

**Deadlines:** Submission must be postmarked no later than **August 15, 2011** and mailed to: American Bar Association, Standing Committee on Law and National Security, 740 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005; or sent via email to [hmcMahon@staff.abanet.org](mailto:hmcMahon@staff.abanet.org). The winner will be notified by **October 15, 2011**. By submitting an entry in this contest, the entrant grants the ABA and the ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security permission to edit and publish the entry in the Committee's *National Security Law Report*. Please direct any questions about the contest to the Committee Staff Director at [hmcMahon@staff.abanet.org](mailto:hmcMahon@staff.abanet.org).

**Judging:** The winning entry will contain a clearly written original analysis of a national security law issue that is substantively accurate and persuasive, and supported by citations. The entries will be judged anonymously by a subcommittee made up of members of the ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security.