

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ON ANIMALS AND THE LAW

2026 STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION

RULES

Topic: Any topic on Animal Law.

Eligibility: To be eligible for consideration, the submission must be written by a student currently enrolled (full time or part time) in an ABA-accredited law school. Students expecting to receive their degree in 2026 are eligible for consideration.

The submission must be the student's individual work product. Papers that have been jointly written by more than one student, or that have been subjected to line editing by professors or advisors, or that have been generated in any part through the student's use of artificial intelligence ("AI"), shall not be considered. No paper that has been previously published in any form shall be considered. We will only accept one submission per entrant. By submitting a paper for consideration, the student is attesting to their compliance with these requirements.

Deadline: Papers must be submitted no later than Monday, July 6, 2026. Awards will be announced in September, 2026.

Award Criteria: Written submissions will be judged based on quality, clarity, originality, and organization. All essays must also meet the following criteria:

Length: Typed, double spaced, no less than 12 point Times New Roman font, on 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch paper, with 1 inch margins, and no more than 25 pages, including footnotes. Footnotes should be single spaced, and no less than 10 point font.

Format: Email submission in **Microsoft Word** format to Lena Faustel at lfaustel@nysba.org, no later than Monday, July 6, 2026.

Cover Page: Entrants must submit a cover page indicating the entrant's name, law school, expected year of graduation, mailing address, email address, and telephone number. **All other references to identifying information, such as name, law school, and contact information should be deleted or redacted from the body of the submission.**

Prizes Awarded: First place: \$1,000 and a Certificate of Achievement

Second place: \$500 and a Certificate of Achievement

Third place: Certificate of Recognition

Fourth Place: Certificate of Recognition

The Committee also reserves the right to offer the winners (and other entrants), at the Committee's discretion, the opportunity to publish his/her paper in the Committee's Laws & Paws publication. Offers to publish are purely within the discretion of the Committee. The Committee in no way guarantees entrant's the opportunity for publication.

Questions? Send an email to the NYSBA Staff Liaison, Lena Faustel, at lfaustel@nysba.org.