



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

THE LAW SCHOOL
1100 Eck Hall of Law
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556 USA

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January 30, 2026

Dear Law School Dean:

Enclosed please find an informational flyer about the Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition sponsored by the Notre Dame Law School. Through the generosity of one of our benefactors, the best submission on any legal ethics topic will win a \$2,500 prize.

Any current student at an American or Canadian law school may submit an essay (minimum of 5,000 words and maximum of 15,000 words, inclusive of footnotes) on any legal ethics topic. The essays that are submitted to the competition will be judged on their clarity, coherence, creativity, insight, and mastery of the rules and cases relevant to the topic of the essay in question. Please note that the submission deadline is April 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. EST.

We ask your assistance in posting the enclosed flyer and in notifying your students of the competition. The flyer and information can also be found on our website at law.nd.edu/smith-doheny. Questions and other inquiries should be directed to the Notre Dame Law School at kkusisto@nd.edu.

Thank you, in advance, for your help in promoting this writing competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy J. Kozel".

Randy J. Kozel
Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Academic Affairs
Fritz Duda Family Professor of Law

NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL SMITH-DOHENY LEGAL ETHICS WRITING COMPETITION

Call for Papers

Notre Dame Law School sponsors an annual writing competition on the topic of legal ethics. All students with an interest in legal ethics are invited and encouraged to participate.

- The competition is open to all law students at U.S. and Canadian law schools.
- Entries should concern any issue within the general category of legal ethics.
- Entries must be original, unpublished work.
- Entries must be a minimum of 5,000 words and a maximum of 15,000 words, inclusive of footnotes.
- Coauthored essays may be submitted.
- Submissions will be judged by Notre Dame Law School faculty.
- A prize of \$2,500 will be awarded for one winning entry.
- All entries must be received before **5 p.m., April 1, 2026**.
- Include cover letter with contact information and name of current law school.

All entries should be submitted to:

Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Writing Competition Website: law.nd.edu/smith-doheny
Notre Dame Law School
Email: kkusisto@nd.edu
(574) 631-6898