



ADMINISTRATIVE LAW SECTION OF THE TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW WRITING COMPETITION
\$1000 Cash Prize

DEADLINE: Thursday, April 30, 2026

Purpose

To promote an interest in and understanding of administrative law in Tennessee through the publication of scholarly articles on administrative law topics, and to strengthen the relationship among administrative law professors, law students, and administrative law practitioners in Tennessee.

Topic

The award will be presented to the applicant who submits the best legal writing on a topic of Tennessee or federal administrative law. Relevant articles, case comments, notes, or essays may be submitted for competition, including writing submitted for academic credit. Jointly authored articles are not eligible.

Eligible Persons

Law students enrolled in a Tennessee law school during the 2025-2026 school year. We welcome entries from students attending Nashville School of Law, the University of Memphis, Vanderbilt University, Belmont University, Lincoln Memorial University, and the University of Tennessee.

Format, Page Limit, Title Page

Entries must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. Entries must be 15 pages or less, including footnotes and endnotes. Footnotes must be in Times New Roman 10-point font, single spaced. Citation form must conform to the current edition of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*. **The following information must be included on a separate title page:** 1) title of paper; 2) author's name; 3) mailing address, telephone number, and email address where author can be reached; 4) name of law school; 5) year of expected graduation; 6) certification that author has reviewed and meets terms of eligibility for the contest. The title page does *not* count towards the page limit. **The contestant's name and other identifying information should not be on any page except the title page.**

Judging

A three-judge panel from the Executive Council of the Administrative Law Section of the Tennessee Bar Association will judge the entries. Entries will be judged on: 1) quality of writing; 2) quality of research and support of thesis; 3) originality of topic; 4) timeliness of subject.

Release from Copyright

The award-winning paper must be released from copyright or other restrictions for the purpose of publication in the Administrative Law Connect—the Tennessee Bar Association’s administrative law newsletter.

Submission of Entries

All entries must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format. Entries must be emailed to Brooke Leeton at bleeton@tnbar.org by **Thursday, April 30, 2026**. Please email any questions to TBA Coordinator Brooke Leeton.

Disclaimer

The Executive Committee of the Administrative Law Section reserves the right not to declare a winner of the writing competition. The Executive Committee of the Administrative Law Section also reserves the right not to declare a winner of the writing competition if there are not at least two submissions. In this situation, any submission will automatically be held over to the next competition and considered along with any additional submissions. In addition, a person who submitted the paper that is held over may submit another paper for consideration.

Past winners include:

2025: Zachary Sterne, Belmont University College of Law, “Standing Up for Setting Aside: Vacatur’s Valid Role as a Remedy Under Section 706 of the Administrative Procedure Act”

2024: Corine Stark, Belmont University College of Law, “At the Intersection of Major Questions”

2021: Kyle M. Brinker, Vanderbilt University Law School, “A *Gundy* Revival in the Age of Public Health Crises”

2020: Duncan M. Bryant, University of Tennessee College of Law, “Of Constitutions and *Kisor*: State Constitutional Law and the End of Administrative Deference”