

## **I. Overview**

The NYU Law Legislation Competition (the Competition) is an annual intraschool legislation drafting competition sponsored by the *N.Y.U. Journal of Legislation and Public Policy* (*Legislation*, “The Journal”).

The purpose of the event is to provide law students the opportunity to develop persuasive writing and legislative drafting skills while interacting with a policy problem impacting the public interest, with an aim towards developing publishable, practical work product.

The Competition is directed by the Executive Board of *Legislation*, and administered jointly by its Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor of Development (Competition Administrators). Grading is conducted, at the discretion of the Board, by a committee of 3L editors on the Journal.

## **II. Participation**

### **A. Eligibility**

The competition is open to all students (including first-years and LL.M.s) at NYU Law and NYU’s other graduate institutions (e.g. Wagner, Silver, etc.), as well as alumni of the same. Alumni submissions will be evaluated solely within their own competition bracket.

### **B. Registration; Withdrawal**

Registration will be open from the posting of these rules at [www.nyujlpp.org/legislation-competition](http://www.nyujlpp.org/legislation-competition). Students may register at the following link: [registration form](#). Registration is required to submit an entry.

Participants may withdraw by emailing the Competition Administrators at any time.

### **C. Collaboration Permitted; Multiple-Entry Prohibited**

A registered participant may choose to submit a joint entry with any other registered participant, with the consent of both given by email to the Competition Administrators. No participant may submit more than one entry, whether submitted solo or jointly.

### **D. Rules; Disqualification or Other Penalties**

Participants agree to adhere to the rules contained in this document. The Competition Administrators reserve the right to promulgate new rules, or amend the extant rules, as needed over the course of the competition. New or amended rules become binding on participants when they are distributed via email to the pool of Participants. Participants will receive prompt notice of any new or amended rules.

Requests for interpretation of these Rules should be made at the earliest date possible to the Competition Administrators at [nyulegiscompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nyulegiscompetition@gmail.com). Competitors will receive prompt notification of any clarifications of the rules, and will be bound by the clarifications effective at the time of notification.

Failure to abide by the rules may result in the participant’s disqualification or the application of another penalty, at the discretion of the Competition Administrators.

## **III. Competition Problem & Submissions**

### **A. The Problem Statement; Scope of Research**

Participants in the competition are to frame their entries in reaction to a Problem Statement. The Problem Statement consists of one or more mock policy scenarios and several sources comprising an initial record for the competition. It is designed not to give a comprehensive picture of the policy problem addressed, but to provide enough of an introduction and foothold to enable the competitor to engage in external research and construct a compelling policy paper and legislative solution in response.

Participants do not **need** to address the sources in the initial record – they are merely provided to give a jumping-off point. To borrow a lawyering term, participants may draw upon the “open-universe” of sources; a participant may cite in their Policy Paper any accessible source that substantiates their claims. If a grader cannot locate a source cited in the Policy Paper, the proposition for which the source was offered will be deemed unsubstantiated for purposes of grading.

If a participant desires, they may seek clarification on the Problem Statement by emailing [nyulegiscompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nyulegiscompetition@gmail.com) until February 16th. The Competition Administrators will respond within 24 hours; relevant responses will be extended to the entire pool of participants.

The Problem Statement will be distributed to all competitors on February 8, along with a copy of these Rules and a copy of the official Grading Rubric. The Problem Statement, Rules and Grading Rubric will also be available online at [nyujlpp.org/legislation-competition](http://nyujlpp.org/legislation-competition).

The N.Y.U. Journal of Legislation and Public Policy reserves rights to the Problem Statement.

## **B. Materials for Submission**

To successfully enter the competition, a participant must submit both a Policy Paper and a piece of Model Legislation.

### **1. Policy Paper**

The Policy Paper comprises the main portion of the Competition’s graded materials. While the general design and format of the Policy Paper are left to the taste and judgment of the individual competitor, the paper must comply with the following:

The Policy Paper may be no fewer than five (5) pages and no more than ten (10) pages in length, inclusive of any footnotes, charts, appendices, or other additions.

Citations within the Policy Paper should be done in accordance with the latest edition of the Bluebook. Citations should be done in footnotes; no citations should appear in the above-the-line text of the Paper.

The Policy Paper should begin with a Statement of the Issue, the content of which should apprise the reader of the precise policy issue implicated by the Problem which the Competitor has elected to address.

The Policy Paper should include a Recommendations section, which should clearly lay out the concrete policy and legislative proposals the Competitor advocates in response to the Issue. The Recommendations section is of critical importance to the content and grading of the Model Legislation; Competitors should ensure this section is instantly recognizable and easy to understand.

As a reminder: the document is essentially persuasive, and should be targeted to the proper audience (legislators and their staff). Otherwise, Competitors are encouraged to experiment with design, layout, and order of presentation to maximize the impact of their proposal.

A persuasive, academic-style paper is an acceptable format so long as the sections above are clearly identified. Examples of previous winners may be found at <http://nyujlpp.org/legislation-competition>.

### **2. Model Legislation**

Each Competitor must craft a piece of model legislation designed to enact their recommendations from the Policy Paper insofar as those proposals require legislative action. There is no minimum or maximum required length for the Model Legislation; however, points are awarded for succinctness and clarity. Longer does not necessarily mean better.

The Model Legislation should include a Statement of Purposes/Findings detailing the purpose of the legislative enactment and presenting the legislation in as persuasive a manner as reasonably possible.

The Model Legislation should include a Definitions section fully defining all terms appearing within the operative provisions in such a way as to minimize ambiguity or opportunities for misinterpretation.

The Model Legislation's operative provisions should be written concisely and unambiguously.

Boilerplate severability and repealer clauses should be included at the end of the model legislation.

The Model Legislation should conform generally to the Uniform Law Commission's 2012 Drafting Rules, which will be distributed to all competitors and is available at: <https://www.uniformlaws.org/viewdocument/drafting-rules-2012>

To the extent that the issues discussed within the Problem Statement could be addressed simply by regulatory action under an existing statute (i.e. by the Secretary of Blah promulgating a new rule or regulation under extant Organic Statute X), assume the legislature wants the final word on the issue, and is seeking to amend the underlying statute rather than to promulgate a new regulation.

### **C. Submission, Deadline & Penalties**

Both the Policy Paper and Model Legislation are due on March 3, 2019 at 11:59pm. This is the deadline. To promote equity in the competition, materials should be submitted anonymously, tagged only with the 3-digit competition ID assigned upon registration.

All materials are to be submitted in both Word & PDF form to [nyulegiscompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nyulegiscompetition@gmail.com), using the naming convention “###-PolicyPaper-19” and “###-ModelLegislation-19”.

Materials submitted after the deadline will be assessed the following penalties:

- -10% of the total assessed score for the first 12 hours after the deadline.
- -10% of the total assessed score for each 12 hour period thereafter.
- if materials are not submitted within 72 hours of the deadline, the participant will be dropped from the competition.

Participants will be notified by email when penalties are assessed. Penalties may be waived in cases of extraordinary hardship, granted upon agreement of both Competition Administrators. Waiver requests must be received by email to [nyulegiscompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nyulegiscompetition@gmail.com) within 48 hours of notice of penalty.

## **IV. Scoring; Awards**

### **A. Qualities**

Participants should reference the Grading Rubric for detailed information on how scores will be assessed. In general, points will be awarded for technical proficiency, persuasive effect, quality of research, and fit between the Policy Paper and the Model Legislation proposed.

Final scores will be used to determine the top overall scorers for purposes of awarding prizes and publication offers.

### **B. Grading & Appeals**

Materials will be graded by 3L editors on the NYU Journal of Legislation & Public Policy. Competition materials will be graded out of a possible 150 points, following a rubric distributed to competitors at the beginning of the competition. Each competitor will be graded by at least two individual graders, whose scores will be averaged to calculate a final score.

If a competitor believes his or her scores were tabulated erroneously or graded incorrectly, he or she must contact the Competition Administrators, in writing, within forty-eight hours of score release. The Competition Administrators will review the appeal and respond within forty-eight hours. The Competition Administrator's disposition of the appeal is binding and final.

### **C. Awards**

The N.Y.U. Journal of Legislation and Public Policy will publish the Policy Paper and Model Legislation of the top scorer in each bracket (student and alumni) in its online companion, *Quorum* – or, at the discretion of the Journal's Editorial Board, in its print edition. In either case, publication is contingent upon the top scorer's cooperation in the Journal's editorial process. The Journal reserves the right of first-refusal for publication of the to the second- and third-highest scoring competitors as well.

The top scorer in each bracket will also be invited to present on their paper during a panel discussion on March 12, 2019.

The top overall scorer in the student bracket shall also receive, in an amount to be determined, prize money.

**LAST AMENDED: 2.20.19**