



Oifig an Phríomh
Aturnae Stáit
Chief State
Solicitor's Office

Law Student Essay Competition Notice

The Chief State Solicitor's Office (CSSO) is delighted to announce that it has opened entries for its annual student essay competition.

The CSSO forms an important part of the Government of Ireland's legal infrastructure. Our mission includes supporting adherence to the rule of law. In that context, our chosen essay title for 2025 is:

"Please explain the nature and importance of the rule of law generally, together with your views on its current status in Ireland and in a broader international context."

The Competition:

1. The competition is open to anyone who is currently an undergraduate degree student of law enrolled full time in a third-level institution in Ireland.
2. The essay may be submitted in English or Irish (as Gaeilge).
3. The essay must not exceed **2,000 words**, excluding bibliography and footnotes, which should be limited to listing of references.
4. The essay must be accompanied by the following declaration:

"I confirm that this essay is entirely my own independent and original work, representing my best efforts on the topic. It is written in my own words, save where an express reference or citation is included."

The declaration should be inserted into the essay as the cover page at the front. An essay submitted without a declaration will not be deemed a valid entry and will be excluded from the competition.

5. All essays must be typed and submitted electronically (in both Word and PDF format) to the email address **CSSOEssayCompetition@csso.gov.ie**.
6. The cover email submitting the essay must provide details of: entrant's name, contact email address and telephone number, university/college, degree programme, and enrolment particulars (ie which year).
7. The closing date for receipt of essays is **5pm on Friday 28 March 2025**.
8. There will be three prizes: 1st prize €500, 2nd prize €250, 3rd prize €150.



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Evaluation:

Entries will be assessed by a Judging Panel which will be composed of senior lawyers within the CSSO. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- direct relevance of content throughout to the essay topic
- appropriate references to Irish, EU and/or international sources of law to support the writer's view on the topic
- originality
- depth of analysis
- clarity of presentation and argument
- writing style/quality

The decision of the Judging Panel shall be absolute and final. There shall be no appeal against the decision of the Judging Panel and the CSSO reserves the right not to make an award/designate a prize(s) in a given year.

The top three entrants will be invited to a prize-giving presentation in the CSSO in May 2025. They will have the opportunity to meet with the Chief State Solicitor, Ms Maria Browne and senior lawyers from across the various practice areas of the CSSO and to gain insights into our legal work for the State.

Data Protection:

The CSSO complies fully with its obligations under Data Protection law. We collect your data from the information you provide to us when you enter this competition. Your personal data will be used for the purposes of managing and administering the competition. This processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by us, as the controller of competition data. Winners of the competition will be announced through our various communication channels. The announcements may include photographs taken with the Chief State Solicitor and other CSSO staff. We will seek the consent of the data subject prior to any photo being taken. The CSSO will hold your personal data as long as is necessary for the purpose of administering the competition.

Key Dates

28 March 2025	Essays to be submitted to CSSOEssayCompetition@csso.gov.ie by 5pm
29 March 2025-25 April 2025	Judging of essays
May 2025 (date to be confirmed)	Top three entrants will be invited to the Chief State Solicitor's Office for a prize-giving reception