Innovative Legal Issues Likely to Arise from Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things Writing Competition (the “Writing Competition”)

Purpose of the Writing Competition

Fridges that automatically order items which are about to run out, smart houses which respond to voice commands, self-driving cars, and unmanned planes tackling fires are no longer a thing of the future. Artificial Intelligence (including Machine Learning) and the Internet-of-Things are here, and they are likely to create significant legal issues.

The new generation of lawyers will face, conceptualize, unlock and potentially resolve many of these issues which are new, complex and multi-faceted – some of which will rely on traditional law while others may well not. It is to that new generation that this Writing Competition is addressed.

Topic

To take part in this Writing Competition, you are invited to submit a paper addressing one or more innovative legal issues likely to grow out of Artificial Intelligence or the Internet-of-Things. Emphasis is on creativity and innovation. Papers must set forth the likely issue, explain why it likely will arise and to what degree, and whether it is probable that it can be readily resolved by application of existing law. A submission need not propose a solution to the issue identified, but any such solutions that are plausible and well-articulated are likely to impress the judges.

Eligibility

This Writing Competition is open to law students in good standing enrolled on a degree course during the 2017-2018 academic year at an ABA-accredited law school within the US, or at law school in the EU or Canada with an equivalent accreditation. Further eligibility criteria are listed below.

Prizes

Three cash prizes will be awarded to the entries deemed by the judges, in their sole discretion, to be the best three papers. The prizes are as follows:

- First place: US $2,500
- Second place: US $1,500
- Third place: US $1,000

In exceptional cases, the judges may select one or more papers to receive an honorable mention, which does not entail a cash prize.

The winning submissions will be posted on CLCT’s website.
**Deadlines**

To take into account the varying academic calendars and different geographical areas, the deadlines are:

- For students enrolled in law schools in the US and Canada: **Friday, December 1, 2017 by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST)**
- For students enrolled in law schools in the EU: **Friday, December 15, 2017 by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

Papers which are received after 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on the relevant deadline will be disqualified.

The prizes will be announced on or before **31 May 2018**.

**About the Organizer and the Sponsor**

The organizer of this Writing Competition is the Center for Legal and Court Technology (“CLCT”), which is a joint initiative of William & Mary Law School (the United States’ oldest law school) and the National Center for State Courts. CLCT is the world center for courtroom and related technology. Its courtroom, the world’s most technologically advanced, is supported by technology loans from many companies.

Cisco Systems, Inc. (“CISCO”) has generously funded a grant for CLCT to educate lawyers and judges in the United States, the European Union (“EU”) and Canada on the type of issues that can be expected to grow out of Artificial Intelligence and the Internet-of-Things. The goal of this Writing Competition is to ignite interest in and dialogue with law students as future members of the legal professions on the type of issues that can be expected to grow out of emerging technologies. We believe that the forthcoming generations of judges and lawyers can be more creative, flexible, and resourceful in anticipating and coping with these emerging legal issues if they engage with them during their legal education. At the same time, we hope that this Writing Competition will act as a form of crowdsourcing so that judges, lawyers, and law students will have a better idea of the challenges we will face in our legal future.
Entry Information and Procedures (the “Rules”)

1. Participants

1.1. The Writing Competition is open to law student, in good standing, enrolled on a law degree (e.g. J.D. or LL.B.) or a Master’s degree (e.g. LL.M.) during the 2017-2018 academic year at an ABA-accredited law school within the US, or at law school in the EU or Canada with an equivalent accreditation.

1.2. Students enrolled in law school part-time are welcome to participate.

1.3. CLCT student staff may not participate.

2. Formatting Requirements

2.1. Papers must be written in English.

2.2. Papers may not exceed 3,500 words, including titles, texts, citations, footnotes, appendices/annexes, bibliography, etc. Papers that exceed this limit will be disqualified.

2.3. Papers must be e-mailed as a Microsoft Word document or equivalent word processing file type that can be easily opened with Word. Hard copies or other electronic formats (such as .PDF) will be disqualified.

2.4. The text of the submission must be single-spaced, justified paragraph formatting, and in twelve-point font. Footnotes should be single-spaced and in ten-point font.

2.5. Pages should be numbered consecutively.

2.6. The total number of words must be entered on the submission form (please use Appendix 1 or Appendix 2 below). In computing the number of words, all words, including articles and prepositions, should be counted. Count numbers and abbreviations as words. For example, F.3d corresponds to 1 word; while 746 F.3d 913 corresponds to 3 words.

2.7. No personal or identifying information should be included in the paper.

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1 Including its possessions.

2 The countries forming part of the EU are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
3. **Anonymity**

3.1. It is the policy of CLCT not to discriminate on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, color, religion, ethnic/national origin, veteran status, gender identity, or sexual preference in administering this Writing Competition. Therefore, to ensure anonymity, please do not include in your paper your name, name of your law school, the sender’s identity (if somebody else is submitting your paper on your behalf), or any details which could lead the judges to identify you or your law school. Papers that include these identifying information will be disqualified.

3.2. Personal details must only be included in the Submission Form which must accompany each submission.

4. **How to Submit the Paper**

4.1. Entries must be submitted via email to this email address essaycompetition@lists.wm.edu no later than the deadlines listed above at page 2. Questions should be directed to the same email address.

4.2. In order to verify enrollment, all submissions must include 3 separate files:

   - The paper as a Microsoft Word document;
   - A completed and signed submission form using the form in Appendix 1 or Appendix 2 below (the “Submission Form”); and
   - A copy of an official university document proving your enrollment or valid student card (the “University Enrollment Form”).

5. **Judges and Criteria**

5.1. All entries will be judged anonymously. The submissions will go through a two-tier judging process.

5.2. The papers will be reviewed by CLCT which will select the 12 best ones. These will then be passed on to the judges, experienced lawyers, who will select the three winners and any papers deserving an honorable mention.

5.3. The judges will use their complete discretion in selecting the winning papers, but will take into account these guiding principles (in no particular order):

   - Innovative legal issue(s) likely to grow out of Artificial Intelligence or the Internet-of-Things;
   - Novelty and originality of the issue(s);
   - Original and though-provoking discussion of the topic;
   - Legal analysis and reasoning;
   - Conciseness, clarity and precision of the idea(s) put forward;
   - Consideration of legal and policy implications, and any proposed solutions (if any);
   - Organization of the idea(s) and presentation;
   - Writing quality (grammar, syntax and form);
   - Quality and use of research (including correct citation); and
   - Compliance with these Rules.

5.4. In the unlikely event that no entries are of sufficient quality to merit an award, CLCT reserves the right not to award any prizes.

5.5. The decision of the judges is final.
6. **Terms**

6.1. Students must submit an unpublished, paper written solely by the student(s).

6.2. Papers must not have received feedback or edits from any third parties, including faculty or instructors at the student’s institution. This must be expressly indicated in the Submission Form.

6.3. Papers that have been previously published or accepted for publication are not eligible.

6.4. Papers based on research or other work done in connection with law firm or other employment (whether full-time or part-time) are also not eligible.

6.5. Only one submission will be accepted per student. If CLCT receives more than one paper from the same author, none of the student’s submissions will be considered.

6.6. A co-authored paper by no more than two students is acceptable provided the paper submitted is the original work of the two co-authors and that both co-authors are currently enrolled law students. If awarded a prize, co-authors will share it equally.

6.7. Papers should include a scholarly discussion of the topic and full citations to authorities. Citations may be embedded in text or set out in footnotes and should conform to the current edition of the Uniform System of Citation (Bluebook) for students at US law schools or equivalent citation standard for students in law schools in the EU or Canada.

6.8. Any form of plagiarism will result in the automatic disqualification of the students. CLCT reserves the right to inform the relevant university of the plagiarism offence.

6.9. By submitting the paper and official entry form, the students agree that:

   a) each has read these Rules and accepts the conditions stated therein;
   b) each paper is an original piece of work written by the student (or is one co-authored by the two students) which has not received feedback or edits from anyone else, including faculty and instructors;
   c) if co-authors are awarded a prize, they will share the prize money equally;
   d) all winners will provide promptly, and in any event within 21 calendar days from the request, any information required by CLCT to arrange the payment of the cash prize and understand that failure to do so may amount to forfeiture of the prize and another winner may be named;
   e) all winners grant to William & Mary Law School, CLCT, and CISCO the right to reproduce, publish, and use the winning papers (with amendments, if necessary), the winners’ names and photographs, without compensation; and
   f) each student releases William & Mary Law School, CLCT and CISCO from any and all liability.

6.10. Winners are solely responsible for reporting and arranging the payment of all taxes (federal, state, local or other) due on each prize, if any such taxes apply. Cash prizes will only be paid in US Dollars by way of check or bank transfer. Any fees that may be charged from time to time by the relevant bank, will be deducted from the prize money.
6.11. CLCT and CISCO are not responsible for errors or for lost, late, or misdirected correspondence or telecommunication, hardware or software failures, including by reason of any bug, computer virus or other failure.

6.12. CLCT may cancel, modify or terminate the Writing Competition for any reasons, including infection by computer virus, tampering, unauthorized intervention, force majeure or technical difficulties of any kind.

6.13. This Writing Competition is subject to all US federal, state, and local laws and regulations. By entering, all participants agree that the Writing Competition shall be governed by the laws of the State of Virginia, that the courts of Virginia shall have exclusive jurisdiction, and that Williamsburg, Virginia shall be the venue for any dispute relating to or arising from the Writing Competition.

7. **Maximum Number of Submissions**

7.1. Due to time constraints and in order to ensure that the judges are given a fair opportunity to review the submissions, the total number of eligible submissions will be 160, based on the date and time of submission as set out below.

7.2. Should the total number of entries received be 160 or less, all submissions will be considered (unless disqualified for other reasons) regardless of geographical areas.

7.3. Should the total number of entries received exceed 160, these caps\(^3\) will be applied by geographical areas:

- For students enrolled in law schools in the US the cap is 75 submissions;
- For students enrolled in law schools in the Canada the cap is 10 submissions; and
- For students enrolled in law schools in the EU the cap is 75 submissions.

7.4. If more than the permitted number of papers in each geographical area are received by CLCT, entries up to the permitted number will be determined by the order in which they are received. CLCT will not take into account any other factor nor any extenuating circumstances.

8. **Odds of Winning**

8.1. Chances of winning depend on the number and quality of the entries submitted. However, as noted above, CLCT reserves the right not to award any prize if, in its sole discretion, it determines that no entries are of sufficient quality to merit an award.

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\(^3\) These caps have been calculated on the rough basis of total students enrolled in higher education, in each geographical area.
# Appendix 1

## Artificial Intelligence Writing Competition

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## Single Author Official Submission Form

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT – ILLEGIBLE FORMS MAY CAUSE DISQUALIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABOUT YOUR SUBMISSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of submission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course for which this paper was prepared (if inapplicable, leave blank)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABOUT YOU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First name and surname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course currently enrolled (e.g., J.D., LL.B., or LL.M.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Please provide correct, accurate and current contact details. If the details are not correct, accurate or no longer valid, and you cannot be contacted, CLCT reserve the right to disqualify you without any further reference to you.

2 This covers all part of the paper including text, titles, footnotes, appendices, bibliography, etc. In computing the number of words, all articles and prepositions should be counted. Count numbers and abbreviations as words. For example, F.3d corresponds to 1 word; while 746 F.3d 913 corresponds to 3 words.

3 Enter your full name as it appears on your current Passport or national Identity Card.
I affirm that:

1. I have read, understood, accepted and abided by the Artificial Intelligence Writing Competition Rules and Procedure (the “Rules”).

2. I am enrolled as a full-time or part-time law student of good standing at an ABA-accredited law school within the US, or at law school in Canada and the EU\(^4\) with an equivalent accreditation.

3. I wrote personally the paper that I hereby submit to the Writing Competition. This paper has not received feedback or edits from anyone else, including any faculty or instructors.

4. The paper that I submit has not been published or accepted for publication prior to its submission to the Writing Competition.

5. If selected as a winner, I grant to William & Mary Law School, CLCT, and CISCO the right to reproduce, publish, and use my paper (with amendments, if necessary), my name and photograph, without compensation.

6. I hereby release, discharge and hold harmless William & Mary Law School, CLCT and CISCO from any and all liability.

7. All statements and information contained in my submission is true, correct, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I enclose:

- My anonymized paper (see paragraph 3 of the Rules)
- The completed and signed Submission Form in Appendix 1 to the Rules
- The University Enrollment Form (see paragraph 4.2 of the Rules)

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\(^4\) The countries forming part of the EU are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
# Appendix 2

## Artificial Intelligence Writing Competition

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## Co-Authors Official Submission Form

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Please type or print – illegible forms may cause disqualification\(^1\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABOUT YOUR SUBMISSION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of words(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class for which this paper was prepared (if applicable, otherwise leave blank)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABOUT YOU – AUTHOR 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First name and surname(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^1\) Please provide correct, accurate and current contact details. If the details are not correct, accurate or no longer valid, and you cannot be contacted, CLCT reserve the right to disqualify you without any further reference to you.

\(^2\) This covers all part of the paper including text, titles, footnotes, appendices, bibliography, etc. In computing the number of words, all articles and prepositions should be counted. Count numbers and abbreviations as words. For example, F.3d corresponds to 1 word; while 746 F.3d 913 corresponds to 3 words.

\(^3\) Enter your full name as it appears on your current Passport or national Identity Card.
### ABOUT YOU – AUTHOR 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name and Surname(^4)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course currently enrolled (e.g., J.D., LL.B. or LL.M.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Full time/Part time</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Expected) Date of Graduation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number (including international code and area code)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University e-mail address</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternative e-mail address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We affirm that:

1. We have read, understood, accepted and abided by the Artificial Intelligence Writing Competition Rules and Procedure (the “Rules”).

2. We are each enrolled as a full-time or part-time law students of good standing at an ABA-accredited law school within the US, or at law school in Canada and the EU\(^5\) with an equivalent accreditation.

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\(^4\) Enter your full name as it appears on your current Passport or national Identity Card.

\(^5\) The countries forming part of the EU are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
3. We jointly wrote the paper that we submit to the Writing Competition. This paper has not received feedback or edits from anyone else, including any faculty or instructors.

4. The paper that we submit has not been published or accepted for publication prior to its submission to the Writing Competition.

5. If selected as winners, we agree that 50% of any prize money will be paid to each author.

6. If selected as a winners, we grant to William & Mary Law School, CLCT, and CISCO the right to reproduce, publish, and use our paper (with amendments, if necessary), our name and photographs, without compensation.

7. We hereby release, discharge and hold harmless William & Mary Law School, CLCT, and CISCO from any and all liability.

8. All statements and information contained in our submission is true, correct, and accurate to the best of our knowledge.

We enclose:

- Our anonymized paper (see paragraph 3 of the Rules)
- The completed and signed Submission Form in Appendix 2 to the Rules
- Two University Enrollment Forms, one for each author (see paragraph 4.2 of the Rules)

AUTHOR 1

PRINT FULL NAME
_________________________________________________________________

SIGNATURE _________________________________________________________________

DATE _________________________________________________________________

AUTHOR 2

PRINT FULL NAME
_________________________________________________________________