

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WRITING COMPETITION

## INNOVATIVE LEGAL ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE FROM ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE INTERNET OF THINGS

The **CENTER FOR LEGAL AND COURT TECHNOLOGY** (CLCT) is pleased to announce its fourth annual writing competition dedicated to innovative legal issues likely to arise from Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, and/or related technologies.

All current law students\* are cordially invited to submit one paper, which must:

- Present an interesting issue posed by these technologies;
- Explain why it likely will arise and to what degree; and,
- Analyze the probability that it can be readily resolved by the application of existing law.

A submission is not required to put forward a solution to the issue; however, any novel, plausible and well-articulated proposals are likely to impress the judges.

Judges will select the best entries that creatively address these criteria. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

**First place: U.S. \$2,500**

**Second place: U.S. \$1,500**

**Third place: U.S. \$1,000**

The winners will also have the unique opportunity of presenting their papers to a selected audience of executives from Cisco Systems, Inc.

We encourage students from diverse backgrounds to participate! Submissions will be accepted now through the extended deadline of **February 7, 2021**. For further details, as well as terms and conditions, please read the Rules below.



*\* Please see Section 1, "Participants' Eligibility," of the Rules for further explanation and exceptions.*

CLCT is an entrepreneurial public service initiative of William & Mary School of Law and the National Center for State Courts, dedicated to advancing the efficient use of technology in the administration of justice.

Cisco Systems, Inc., (CISCO) has generously funded a grant for CLCT to educate lawyers and judges across the world on the types of issues that can be expected to grow out of Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things. The Competition's goal is to ignite interest in and dialogue with law students as future members of the legal profession. 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 the 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 soon face.



# ENTRY INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES (THE “RULES”)

## 1. **Participants' Eligibility**

- 1.1. The Competition is open to law students, in good standing, enrolled in a law degree (e.g. J.D. or LL.B.), a Master's degree (e.g. LL.M.) or a doctoral degree (S.J.D./J.S.D or Ph.D.) at an ABA-accredited law school within the U.S., or at a foreign law school with equivalent accreditation, during the 2020-2021 academic year.
- 1.2. Non-law degree seeking students enrolled in one course at an accredited law school during the 2020-2021 academic year may participate only as a joint author with a current law student who meets the criteria at Section 1.1.
- 1.3. Students enrolled in law school part-time are welcome to participate.
- 1.4. CLCT student staff may not participate.
- 1.5. Winners of previous CLCT competitions may not participate.

## 2. **Formatting Requirements**

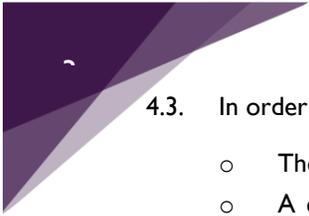
- 2.1. Papers must be written in English.
- 2.2. Papers may not exceed **3,500** words, including titles, texts, citations, footnotes, appendices/annexes, bibliography, etc. Papers that exceed this limit will be disqualified.
- 2.3. Papers must be e-mailed as a word processing file type that can be easily opened with Microsoft 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.

## 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 Competition. Therefore, to ensure anonymity, please do **not** include in your paper your name, the 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 accompanying each submission.

## 4. **When and How to Submit the Paper**

- 4.1. Entries must be submitted via e-mail to this e-mail address [essaycompetition@lists.wm.edu](mailto:essaycompetition@lists.wm.edu) no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on **February 7, 2021**.
- 4.2. Questions should be directed to the same e-mail address.



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

- The paper, in a word processing file type that can be easily opened with Microsoft Word;
- 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 a 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 draft a long list of the best papers. These will then be passed on to the judges, comprising experienced lawyers and CISCO executives, 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, the Internet of Things and related technologies;
- Novelty and originality of the issue(s);
- Original and thought-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 proposed solutions (if any);
- Organization of the idea(s) and presentation;
- Writing quality (grammar, syntax, and form);
- Quality and use of research (including correct citations); and,
- Compliance with these Rules.

5.4. CLCT reserves the right not to award any prizes.

5.5. The decision of the judges is final.

5.6. The winners will be invited to present their paper, either in person or remotely, to a selected audience of CISCO executives.

## **6. *Terms***

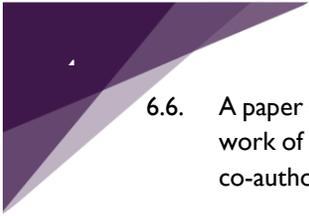
6.1. Students must submit an unpublished paper written solely by the student(s).

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 on 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.

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- 6.6. A paper co-authored 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 U.S. law schools, or the equivalent citation standard for students enrolled in foreign law schools.
  - 6.8. Any form of plagiarism will result in the automatic disqualification of the author(s). CLCT reserves the right to inform the relevant university of the plagiarism offense.
  - 6.9. By submitting the paper and official entry form, students agree that:
    - a) each has read these Rules and accepts the conditions stated herein;
    - 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 or 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, following which 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), as well as 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 understand that the prizes are subject to U.S. state and federal tax deductions, regardless of their nationality and residence. Cash prizes will only be paid in U.S. 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, for lost, late, or misdirected correspondence, or telecommunication, hardware, or software failures, including by reason of any glitch, computer virus, or other failure.
  - 6.12. CLCT may cancel, modify, or terminate the Competition for any reason(s), including infection by computer virus, tampering, unauthorized intervention, force majeure, or technical difficulties of any kind.
  - 6.13. This Competition is subject to all U.S. federal, state, and local laws and regulations. By entering, all participants agree that the 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 Competition.

## **7. *Maximum Number of Submissions***

- 7.1. Due to time constraints and to ensure that the judges are given a fair opportunity to review the submissions, the total number of eligible submissions will be **50**, to be determined on a first-come-first-served basis. CLCT will not take into account any other factor or 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.

# APPENDIX I

## SINGLE AUTHOR OFFICIAL SUBMISSION FORM

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT<sup>1</sup>**

ABOUT YOUR SUBMISSION	
Title of submission	
Total number of words <sup>2</sup>	
Course for which this paper was prepared (if inapplicable, leave blank)	

ABOUT YOU - AUTHOR	
First name and surname <sup>3</sup>	
Law School	
Course currently enrolled (e.g., J.D., LL.B., LL.M., S.J.D./J.S.D, or Ph.D.)	
Full-time/Part-time	
Expected date of graduation	
University e-mail address	
Alternative e-mail address	

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<sup>1</sup> Please provide legible, correct, and accurate information or risk disqualification. If your details are not correct, accurate, or are no longer valid, and you cannot be contacted, CLCT reserves the right to disqualify you without any further reference to you.

<sup>2</sup> This covers all parts 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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 Competition Rules and Procedures (the “Rules”).
2. I am enrolled as a law student in good standing at an ABA-accredited law school within the U.S., or at a foreign law school with equivalent accreditation.
3. I wrote personally the paper that I submit. 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 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), as well as 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 are 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 I to the Rules
- The University Enrollment Form (see paragraph 4.3 of the Rules)

**PRINT FULL  
NAME**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**

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# APPENDIX 2

## CO-AUTHORS OFFICIAL SUBMISSION FORM

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT<sup>4</sup>**

ABOUT YOUR SUBMISSION	
Title of submission	
Total number of words <sup>5</sup>	
Course for which this paper was prepared (if inapplicable, leave blank)	

ABOUT YOU – AUTHOR I	
First name and surname <sup>6</sup>	
Law School	
Course currently enrolled (e.g., J.D., LL.B., LL.M., S.J.D./J.S.D, or Ph.D.)	
Full-time/Part-time	
Expected date of graduation	
University e-mail address	
Alternative e-mail address	

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<sup>4</sup> Please provide legible, correct, and accurate information or risk disqualification. If your details are not correct, accurate, or are no longer valid, and you cannot be contacted, CLCT reserves the right to disqualify you without any further reference to you.

<sup>5</sup> This covers all parts 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.

<sup>6</sup> Enter your full name as it appears on your current Passport or national Identity Card.

## ABOUT YOU – AUTHOR 2

First name and surname <sup>7</sup>	
Law School	
Course currently enrolled (e.g., J.D., LL.B., LL.M., S.J.D./J.S.D, or Ph.D.)	
Full-time/Part-time	
Expected date of graduation	
University e-mail address	
Alternative e-mail address	

We affirm that:

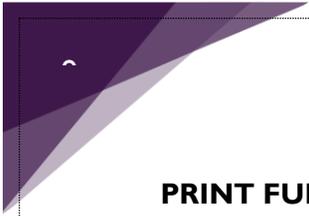
1. We have read, understood, accepted, and abided by the Artificial Intelligence Competition Rules and Procedures (the “Rules”).
2. We are each enrolled as a full-time or part-time law student in good standing at an ABA-accredited law school within the U.S., or at a foreign law school with an equivalent accreditation, or are a non-law degree seeking student enrolled in one law course at an accredited law school and a current law student.
3. We jointly wrote the paper that we submit to the 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 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), as well as our names 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
- The University Enrollment Forms, one per author (see paragraph 4.3 of the Rules)

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<sup>7</sup> Enter your full name as it appears on your current Passport or national Identity Card.



**AUTHOR 1**

**PRINT FULL  
NAME**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**

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**AUTHOR 2**

**PRINT FULL  
NAME**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**

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