



Hirsh Student Writing Competition in Legal Medicine

CALL FOR STUDENT PAPERS

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) invites students to submit their papers in Legal Medicine for the ACLM 2026 Annual Conference, scheduled to take place at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in Phoenix, AZ on March 6-8, 2026. The theme of this year's Conference is: Twenty Years of Shifting Precedents, Evolving Doctrines, and Uncertain Direction.

All students and recent graduates are encouraged to compete, particularly those studying medicine, law, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, podiatry, healthcare administration, public health, or other healthcare fields.

The writer of the winning paper will be presented the **Hirsh Award** and will receive **\$1,000.00, round trip economy airfare to Phoenix, one-night hotel accommodations during the conference**, and **conference registration** to attend the ACLM 2026 Annual Conference where they will have an opportunity to present the paper, receive the award, and meet with experts in the field of legal medicine. The winning paper, subject to peer review, will be published in the Journal of Legal Medicine, and all other papers entered for the Hirsh Award will receive consideration for publication in the Journal of Legal Medicine.

The second-place winner will receive **\$500.00**.

The third-place winner will receive **\$250.00**.

The top three winners will receive **complimentary one-year membership** in the American College of Legal Medicine.

Participation Criteria

- ❖ Contestants must be currently enrolled in an accredited college or postgraduate school in the United States or Canada or graduated from such an institution no earlier than December 2024. For graduates, they must certify that the manuscript was substantially written while they were a student.

Content of Papers

- ❖ Submissions may address any aspect of legal medicine, including healthcare law, medical licensure, regulation of the profession, business aspects of medical practice, liability of physicians, hospitals, and managed care organizations, ethics, bio-pharmaceutical and medical device regulation, public health law, legal issues in physician-patient relationships, food and drug law, regulation of clinical research, forensic science, or the history of legal medicine.
- ❖ Submissions must be the entirely original work of the individual contestant.
- ❖ Submissions may have been used for academic credit but must not have been submitted for publication.

Format

- ❖ There is no word count limit, but articles under 25,000 words, including footnotes, are preferred.
- ❖ The first page is the cover page with the author's name and contact information and a telephone number, email address and the name of the author's school. It should have the title "2026 Student Writing Competition" and the final word count.
- ❖ At the top of page # 2 and onwards the author must place the title of the paper in all capitals.
- ❖ If an author wishes to acknowledge an individual or institution this can be done on the cover page.
- ❖ The author may not have a financial interest directly or indirectly in the material presented and must disclose any other financial conflicts on the last page of the document.
- ❖ All papers must be submitted in MS Word format using 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and with one-inch margins. All citations must be footers in 10-point Times New Roman font and single-spaced. All pages must be numbered.

Deadline for Submission

- ❖ **Sunday, January 25, 2026** at 11:59 pm EST is the deadline for submission of papers.
- ❖ Papers must be sent by email to pasha.amirala@mayo.edu.
- ❖ Only papers sent by email, submitted by the deadline, and in the requested format will be considered.
- ❖ Please direct all questions to pasha.amirala@mayo.edu.

Judging Papers

- ❖ All papers will be judged in a blinded review process. ACLM reserves the right not to award any prize if the entries do not meet the standards of a winning paper.
- ❖ The papers will be judged based on the following areas:
 - Originality and thoughtfulness
 - Quality of writing and depth of analysis
 - Citation authority in support of arguments
 - Relevance to the Conference Theme

Note: All submitted papers must not be submitted for publication in a journal or law review until they are released back to the author. By submitting your manuscript, you agree that the Journal of Legal Medicine has the right of first refusal. The release of papers will be completed by email from the ACLM to the author by January 31, 2026.

The American College of Legal Medicine

Established in 1960, ACLM is the foremost professional society for individuals with joint degrees in law and medicine or dentistry that works to address pressing issues that exist at the intersection of law and medicine. The ACLM is also the representative organization for the field of Legal Medicine within the American Medical Association (AMA). Membership is open to medical doctors, dentists, other health professionals, and attorneys as well as students who are pursuing degrees in law or medicine. More information is available at our website [American College of Legal Medicine](http://www.aclm.org).

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