



American  
Planning  
Association

Planning  
and Law  
Division

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Denver, Colorado 80202

August 6, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Planning & Law Division of the American Planning Association announces its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Smith-Babcock-Williams Student Writing Competition. The Competition, which honors the memory of three leading figures in American city planning law (R. Marlin Smith, Richard Babcock, and Norman Williams) seeks writings from applicants on a question of significance in planning, planning law, land use law, local government law or environmental law.

The Division is excited to announce that it has updated the Competition for 2020. This year, the Competition will be open to both current students and recent graduates (within the past five years). We will also accept a greater variety of formats, including short essays, longer pieces on topics for a broader audience, or law review articles. As in past years, the winning entry will be awarded a prize of \$2,000, the Second Place paper will receive a prize of \$400 and we will award one Honorable Mention prize of \$100. All three winning entries will be published in the semi-annual newsletter of the Division or, if a winning entry is suitable for law review publication, the Competition Committee will work with the winner to place the entry in a mutually-acceptable journal. Additionally, for winning entries that comment on a current topic of interest to planners and land use lawyers, the Competition Committee will invite one or more of the winning authors to coordinate and present a nationally-broadcast webinar on behalf of the Division.

The deadline for submission of entries is October 31, 2020 and winners will be announced by December 1, 2020. Please refer to the enclosed official rules for further details.

Our past experience has shown that teachers in planning, planning law, land use law, local government law or environmental law are in an ideal position to stimulate student and recent graduate interest in research and writing and to encourage participation in the Competition. Each year, many of the entries appear to have been prepared initially for courses or seminars. We hope you will add your support to the Competition by encouraging your current and past students to submit entries.

Sincerely yours,

Brian J. Connolly, Chair  
APA-PLD Smith-Babcock-Williams Student  
Writing Competition Committee



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## 37<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SMITH-BABCOCK-WILLIAMS STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION

The Planning & Law Division of the American Planning Association announces its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Smith-Babcock-Williams Student Writing Competition. The winning entry in the competition will be awarded a prize of \$2,000, the Second Place paper will receive a prize of \$400 and one Honorable Mention prize of \$100 will also be awarded. Each of the three winning entries will be published in the semi-annual newsletter of the Division or, depending on the format of the top-prize entry, the Competition Committee will work with the winner to place the entry in a mutually-acceptable journal. Additionally, for winning entries offering commentary on a topic of current interest to planners and land use lawyers, the Competition Committee may offer one or more of the authors the opportunity to coordinate and present a nationally-broadcast webinar on behalf of the Division.

### RULES

- 1. Eligibility.** The competition is open to law students at ABA accredited law schools, planning students at schools listed in the current *Guide to Undergraduate and Graduate Education in Urban and Regional Planning* who are enrolled in or who will complete a program of study leading to the J.D., LL.B., Masters or Ph.D. degree during the 2020-2021 academic year. The competition is also open to any graduate of such program, provided the entrant graduated on or after August 1, 2016. All entries must be the work of an individual. Jointly-authored entries will not be considered. Entries may have been written for another purpose within the last year -- e.g., a paper submitted for a course or internship -- but must not have been previously published.
- 2. Subject Matter.** Entries should demonstrate original thought on a question of significance in either city planning or associated areas of law (e.g., land use, local government or environmental law) and will be evaluated based on: (1) originality; (2) contribution to the understanding or development of the fields of planning and law; (3) quality of scholarship; and (4) quality and organization of writing.
- 3. Publication.** As a condition of publication, the author grants to the Division the following rights: 1) the exclusive right of first publication of the Work throughout the world as part of the Division newsletter; 2) the nonexclusive right to reprint the Work whenever necessary and to license use of the Work, or any part thereof, in any medium or form of communication in the English language, to others; and 3) the right to use the Work, or any part thereof, in any other publication with which the Division coordinates. The author shall reserve all exclusive rights not specifically granted to the Division and will have the rights not specifically granted to the Division and will have the rights, after the Work has been published, to print the Work in any publication, provided that the author included in the publication the proper credit to the Division for prior publication of the work.
- 4. Directions for Entries.** Entries may be between 2,500 and 12,000 words. Entries must be formatted with a 1" margin on all-sides, text should be double-spaced, and in a minimum eleven-point pitch. Manuscripts should follow the stylistic guidelines of the *Chicago Manual of Style* (latest edition) published by the University of Chicago Press. All citations should be footnoted in single-spaced, ten point pitch, and should conform to *A Uniform System of Citation* (latest edition) published by the Harvard Law Review Association (the Blue Book).
- 5. Submission of Entries.** To enter the competition, e-mail your entry, no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on October 31, 2020, to Brian J. Connolly at [bconnolly@ottenjohnson.com](mailto:bconnolly@ottenjohnson.com). Your entry must have **two title pages**: the first title page should contain the title of the entry, the name/address/e-mail of the entrant, and identify the entrant's school and date of graduation; **the second title page should contain only the title of the entry.**