



# 2026 PROFESSOR WILLIAM R. GINSBERG MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST

## Topic:

Any topic in environmental law.

## Eligibility:

Contest open to all JD and LLM candidate students enrolled in a New York State law school. Essays may have been submitted for course credit or for law reviews, but not as part of paid employment.

## Length:

Maximum length: 35 double-spaced pages (including footnotes, which may be single-spaced).

## Format:

Each entrant MUST submit a hard copy AND an electronic version in Microsoft Word.

## Judging:

Criteria for judging entries will be: organization, practicality, originality, quality of research, and clarity of style. Entries will be judged by environmental law professors and other distinguished members of the Environmental & Energy Law Section from throughout the state.

## Awards:

The first-place winner will receive a \$1,000 prize; the second-place winner will receive a \$500 prize; and the third-place winner will receive a \$250 prize. All winners will receive certificates. In addition, the first-place essay will be published by the New York State Bar Association, and the second- and third-place essays will be considered for publication. All three winners will receive an invitation to the fall 2026 conference of the Environmental & Energy Law Section.

## To Enter:

Send hard copy to New York State Bar Association, One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207, and email your entry to [lrandle@nysba.org](mailto:lrandle@nysba.org). Include with your entry a cover letter stating your name, mailing addresses (both school and permanent), telephone number, email address, name of school, and year of graduation. This letter should also certify that the essay was not written as part of paid work. Please make sure your name and student information do not appear on the essay. No more than one entry per student per year is allowed.

## Deadline:

June 3, 2026 (Winners will be announced in early September 2026.)

## For Further Information:

Contact your environmental law professor or Miriam E. Villani, Esq.  
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