



ANNOUNCING

HONORABLE WILLIAM C. CONNER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW WRITING COMPETITION FOR 2026

sponsored by

THE NEW YORK INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ASSOCIATION (NYIPLA)

Awards to be presented on May 20, 2026
at the Union League Club in New York City
at the NYIPLA Annual Meeting and Dinner

The Winner will receive a cash award of \$3,000.00
The Runner-up will receive a cash award of \$2,000.00

The competition is open to students enrolled in a J.D. or LL.M. program (day or evening) in an accredited law school in the United States. The subject matter must be directed to one of the following subject areas of intellectual property, *i.e.*, patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and unfair trade practices, as well as antitrust and data security/privacy issues to the extent they relate to intellectual property. Entries must be submitted electronically by March 6, 2026, to admin@nyipla.org. See Rules on page 2 for details on submission requirements.

NYIPLA Executive Office
Tel: (201) 461-6603
admin@nyipla.org



The New York Intellectual Property Law Association created a writing competition for law students and appropriately named it “The William C. Conner Intellectual Property Law Writing Competition,” after the Honorable William C. Conner, who was a former president of the NYIPLA. In recognition of his significant contributions to the field of Intellectual Property, in 1992 the Association established this competition in his name.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND RULES FOR THE HONORABLE WILLIAM C. CONNER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW WRITING COMPETITION

1. All entrants must be law school students currently enrolled in a J.D. or LL.M. program (day or evening) in an accredited law school in the United States with an expected graduation date after March 6, 2026.
2. An entry must be directed to any of the following subject areas of intellectual property, *i.e.*, patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and unfair trade practices, as well as antitrust and data security/privacy issues to the extent they relate to intellectual property. Any entries that focus on topics other than intellectual property will not be considered.
3. All entries must be submitted by March 6, 2026, by e-mail, to:

NYIPLA Executive Office
Tel: (201) 461-6603
admin@nyipla.org
4. Entries must be in “PDF” format, formatted as double-spaced text (except for headings, text in footnotes, or block quotes, which may be single-spaced) on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper (paper orientation: portrait) with at least one-inch margins on all sides, in 12 point or larger font, with all citations in footnotes. Footnotes must be in 10 point or larger font. Please include a cover page with the title of the paper and the entrant’s name and school. Please do not include the entrant’s name or school on any other page of the submission. The title of the paper should appear in the header of every page (excluding the cover page). There is a twenty (20) page maximum limit for all entries, including footnotes, but excluding the cover page or table of contents. Entries that exceed this limit, or otherwise do not conform with these specifications, will not be considered.
5. Entries must reflect the author’s own insights and reasoning. Entries cannot include content generated by Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) or created by any third party.
6. Entries will be judged on interest and suitability of topic for publication by NYIPLA, organization, legal analysis, writing, and professionalism of the work product. A summary of the grading rubric is provided immediately below. Questions regarding the rubric or evaluation criteria should be directed to admin@nyipla.org. The top papers will be submitted to the Board of the NYIPLA for evaluation and determination of a winner and runner-up.

Category	Point Range
Topic	1 – 5
Organization	1 – 5
Legal Analysis	1 – 10
Writing	1 – 10
Professional work product	1 – 5

7. The Winner will receive a cash award of \$3,000.00. The Runner-Up will receive a cash award of \$2,000.00.
8. The Winner and Runner-Up will be invited to attend NYIPLA's Annual Meeting and Dinner on May 20, 2026, at the Union League Club in New York City, where they will be recognized and presented with plaques.
9. Submissions by the Winner and Runner-Up will be published in NYIPLA's publication The Report. Entries previously submitted for consideration for publication or published in scholarly journals will be accepted as long as publication by NYIPLA is permitted.
10. All entrants who provide submissions that meet the requirements and rules above and which exceed 15 pages (excluding any cover page and table of contents) will receive a complimentary one-year student membership to NYIPLA, commencing on May 1, 2026.
11. Entrants must submit a signed copy of these rules with their entry, confirming they have received, read, and adhered to the rules.

I confirm that I have received, read, and adhered to these rules.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

