

The George Washington University Law School

The 2025 Marcus B. Finnegan Prize Competition Information and Rules

The GW Law Intellectual Property Committee invites entries for the 2025 Marcus B. Finnegan Prize Competition, sponsored by the law firm of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.

All students enrolled in The George Washington University Law School for the Spring Semester 2025 are eligible, whether they are in the day or evening division and whether studying for the J.D. or the LL.M. degree. The prizes consist of cash awards of:

1. First Place: \$5000
2. Second Place: \$2000
3. Third Place: \$1000

To receive the Finnegan Prize, a paper must be of publishable quality and make a significant contribution to the theory and practice of Intellectual Property Law. For purposes of this award, intellectual property law will be construed broadly: including, but not limited to, topics pertaining to patent law, computer law, copyright, trademarks, franchise law, antitrust/competition privacy, and technology law. Papers addressing international and/or comparative laws and adopting a wide range of scholarly methodologies are welcome.

Upon receipt of the entries, the Intellectual Property Committee will determine, within its sole discretion, whether one or more papers meet the minimum standards of publishable quality and significant contribution. If one or more papers meet that standard, the Committee will rank up to three of the best papers and award them the First, Second, and Third Prize. Judging criteria will include clarity of expression, originality and creativity, thoroughness of research, and care and clarity of analysis. In its sole discretion, the Committee may decide that no paper merits one or more of the awards. Papers should be between 30 and 75 double-spaced pages in length.

Final papers must be EMAILED to IP Program Associate Claudia B. Delgado at cdelgado@law.gwu.edu before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2025.

No entry may be published prior to that date; however, papers accepted for publication by a GW Law or other Law Journal may be entered. Papers should be in Microsoft word and should be saved as [TITLE OF THE PAPER]. The paper must not have the student's name ANYWHERE on it; papers should instead be identified only by the student's GWID and the title. Entry forms should also be submitted by email and attached as a separate document. Substantially all of the work on each paper must be done during the time the author has been a student here. Papers may have been submitted for credit at The George Washington University Law School and may reflect discussions with faculty members, student law review editors, or both. The version submitted for judging, however, may not be the product of significant editorial changes by a person or persons other than the student author. For further information, please see Associate Dean John Whealan. Further information appears on the following page.

The 2025 Finnegan Prize Competition Rules are as follows:

1. Papers are due Monday, June 2, 2025, by email to cdelgado@law.gwu.edu, no later than 5:00PM. Late papers will not be considered. Papers can be submitted anytime during the week preceding June 2, 2025. Please make sure “Finnegan” is in the subject line of the email, spelled correctly.
2. Entries must be a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 75 double-spaced pages, in at least 12-point type face with 1-inch margins, including footnotes.
3. Your name may not appear on your paper. Please identify yourself on the cover of the paper by your GWID number only, and also indicate whether you are a candidate for the J.D. or LL.M. degree. Save your paper as the title—NOT as your name. Submit in Word.
4. When you submit your paper, please also attach the entry form to the same email. Submission of an entry will constitute your representation that substantially all of the work on your paper has been done during the time you have been a student at The George Washington University Law School, and that the paper was not published prior to June 2, 2025.
5. Please indicate on your entry form the name(s) of the GW faculty with whom you have significantly discussed the substance of your paper.
6. Subsequent to entry in the Competition, papers may be published in scholarly journals, provided their entry in the Competition is duly noted.
7. All entrants will be informed of winners by early Fall by Dean Whealan or IP Program Associate Claudia B. Delgado.