

The George Washington University Law School

The 2026 Marcus B. Finnegan Prize Competition Information and Rules

The GW Law Bernard Center for Law & Technology invites entries for the 2026 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 2026 are eligible, whether they are in the day or evening division and whether studying for the J.D., the LL.M., or M.S.L. degree.

The prizes consist of cash awards of:

1. First Place: \$3,000
2. Second Place: \$1,000
3. Third Place: \$500

To receive the Finnegan Prize, a paper must be currently unpublished, be of publishable quality, and make a significant contribution to the theory and practice of Intellectual Property or Technology Law. For purposes of this award, these fields will be construed broadly, and papers may address any area within them, including but not limited to patent law, computer law, copyright, trademarks, franchise law, antitrust/competition, privacy, AI, and technology law. Papers addressing international and/or comparative law and adopting a wide range of scholarly methodologies are welcome.

Upon receipt of the entries, the Bernard Center Intellectual Property and Technology Committee will judge the papers without knowledge of the identity of the author, to the maximum extent reasonably feasible. The 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 determine that no paper merits one or more of the awards.

Final papers and entry forms must be EMAILED to the GW Law Bernard Center for Law & Technology Program Associate Claudia B. Delgado at cdelgado@law.gwu.edu before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026. Late papers will not be considered.

Please include “Finnegan” in the subject line of the email.

Entry Form Requirements. A blank entry form is attached to this form. Please fill it out, save it, and attach the completed entry form **as a separate document** to your email entering the competition.

Paper Requirements.

1. Only currently unpublished papers are eligible.

- a. No entry may be published prior to June 15, 2026; however, papers accepted for publication by a GW Law or other law journal for a later publication date may be entered.
- b. Subsequent to entry in the Competition, papers may be published in scholarly journals.

2. File formatting and Length

- a. Papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word format and saved as [TITLE OF THE PAPER].docx.
- b. Papers must use a uniform format and be prepared in 14-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides and page numbers centered at the bottom of each page. Footnotes, block quotations, and headings must be single-spaced. This year we are requesting a similar format for each paper to make it easier to read and judge. We have borrowed some of the format requirements from the Federal Circuit rules.
- c. Quotations longer than two lines should be set off as block quotations.
- d. Papers should be between 30 and 75 double-spaced pages in length.
- e. Papers must include a word count. The word count may be calculated for the entire paper, including footnotes, title page, and table of contents, to simplify calculation for students. The word count should be included on the title page or in a footnote to the title.

3. Anonymity

- a. 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., LL.M. or M.S.L. degree.
- b. The paper must NOT contain the student's name anywhere on the paper or in the file name. Papers should instead be identified only by the student's GWID and the title.
- c. Entry forms — with the student's name — should also be submitted by email and attached as a separate document.

4. Student's own work.

- a. Substantially all of the work on each paper must have been completed while the author was a student at the GW Law.
- b. Papers may have been submitted for credit at the GW Law and may reflect discussions with faculty members, student law review editors, or both. The version submitted for judging, however, may not reflect significant editorial changes by any person other than the student author.
- c. Submission of an entry constitutes the entrant's representation that all competition requirements have been satisfied, including that substantially all of the work on the paper was completed while the entrant was a student at The George Washington University Law School and that the paper was not published prior to

June 15, 2026. Misrepresentations to the Committee may be treated as violations of the GW Law Academic Integrity Code.

Entering the Competition

To enter the 2026 Finnegan Prize Competition, please send both an entry form and paper meeting the requirements above by email to cdelgado@law.gwu.edu no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, June 15, 2026.

For further information, please contact Associate Dean John Whealan or Associate Dean at [**jwhealan@law.gwu.edu**](mailto:jwhealan@law.gwu.edu).

All entrants will be notified of winners by early Fall by Associate Dean John Whealan or GW Law Bernard Center for Law & Technology Program Associate Claudia B. Delgado.

Entry Form
2026 The GW Law Bernard Center for Law & Technology
Marcus B. Finnegan Prize Competition

Please submit this form by email to the GW Law Bernard Center for Law & Technology at gwclt@law.gwu.edu, together with your paper as a separate attachment, by **Monday, June 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. Please put your **GWID number**, but **NOT your name**, on your paper to ensure that your entry will be evaluated anonymously. The only place your name should appear is on this entry form.

Student Information

Name:

GWID Number:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Expected Graduation Date:

Degree Program (J.D., LL.M., or M.S.L.):

Title of Entry:

Word Count:

Faculty Disclosure

Please identify any GW faculty member(s) with whom you significantly discussed the substance of your paper. If none, please indicate "None."

Judge/Evaluator Disclosure

Please indicate whether you worked closely with any of the following judges/evaluators in a professional, academic, research, or mentoring capacity. This information will be used solely for purposes of avoiding conflicts during the judging process.

- Dean John Whealan
- Prof. Robert Brauneis
- Prof. Christopher Cotropia
- Dean Adrienne Fowler

Certification

- I am submitting this paper as an entry to the 2026 Marcus B. Finnegan Prize Competition.
- I have read the Finnegan Prize Competition Rules and certify that my submission complies with those rules.
- I certify that substantially all of the work on this paper was completed while I was a student at The George Washington University Law School.
- I certify that this paper has not been published prior to June 15, 2026.

Signature

Your Signature:

Date:

Address (as it appears in Banner)
