

**INAUGURAL AGC-SMU
LAW REFORM ESSAY COMPETITION**

AGC's role in law reform work is discharged by the Legislation and Law Reform Division ("LLRD") of AGC. LLRD works closely with Government Ministries and agencies and the Law Reform Committee of the Singapore Academy of Law on proposals for law reform and drafts the legislation needed to implement the proposals. LLRD is also the central legislative drafting office of Singapore; LLRD drafts and vets Government Bills and subsidiary legislation to give effect to the policies of Government departments and statutory boards.

To raise awareness and interest in law reform work, AGC, in collaboration with the Singapore Management University, is pleased to announce the inaugural AGC-SMU Law Reform Essay Competition 2012, an essay competition that invites participants to propose how a selected area of law in Singapore may be reformed. The contributor of the best proposal stands to win a cash prize of \$1,500 and a 4-week attachment with LLRD.

For more details on AGC's role in law reform work, please visit:
<http://www.agc.gov.sg/llrd/index.html>.

COMPETITION TOPIC AND RULES

Competition topic

1. “How can the existing legal framework with regard to the maintenance of parents and protection for the elderly from neglect and abuse be reformed?”

Eligibility

2.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the competition is open to every person who, on 30th April 2012, is —

(a) a full time student enrolled in the LLB or JD programme at the Singapore Management University (“SMU”) School of Law; or

(b) a full time student who is studying Law as a second major in SMU.

(2) Persons who are related to any of the following persons are not eligible:

(a) a member of the staff of the Legislation and Law Reform Division of the Attorney-General’s Chambers (“AGC”);

(b) a member of the staff of the SMU School of Law.

(3) Participants may participate in the competition on an individual basis or as a team of up to 2 members.

(4) Only one essay per participant or team is allowed.

Evaluation criteria

3. Competition entries will be judged on the following criteria (in no particular order):

(a) originality;

(b) critical analysis;

(c) succinctness;

(d) clarity;

(e) persuasiveness;

(f) practicality and utility of the proposed law reform.

Essay format

4. Every essay must —

- (a) be in English;
- (b) be between 3,000 and 5,000 words in length (including appendices, references, footnotes, tables etc.);
- (c) be typed using a spacing of 1.5 lines; and
- (d) use Times New Roman font with —
 - (i) a font size of 12 for text; and
 - (ii) a font size of 10 for footnotes.

Submission of essays and identification of author

5.—(1) All essays must be submitted via e-mail to “AGC Law Reform Essay@agc.gov.sg”.

(2) The deadline for submission is 5 pm, 26th June 2012. Except as provided in sub-paragraph (3), no essays will be accepted after the deadline.

(3) Only late submissions arising from technical malfunction may be accepted but this is at the absolute discretion of the competition judging panel, whose decision is final and non-appealable.

(4) Participants do not require any prior endorsement of SMU to participate in the competition.

(5) Subject to sub-paragraphs (6) and (8), essays must not contain any information which may identify the author.

(6) Each essay must be submitted with a separate cover sheet containing the following information:

- (a) author's name;
- (b) author's NRIC or passport number (where the author is not a Singaporean citizen or permanent resident);

- (c) author's e-mail address;
- (d) author's mobile telephone number; and
- (e) total word count (including appendices, references, footnotes, tables etc.).

(7) The essay and cover sheet must be submitted as separate documents in the same e-mail.

(8) The author's NRIC or passport number must be indicated at the top right corner of each page of the essay.

Original work only

6.—(1) Each essay must be the sole creation and original work of the participant.

(2) Participants must not submit an essay which is in substance the same as one submitted for any other competition.

Intellectual property

7. By participating in this competition, each participant grants the Government of the Republic of Singapore, care of the Attorney-General's Chambers ("AGC"), free of charge, a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence to —

- (a) use his essay for promotional purposes or any other purpose; and;
- (b) use his name in any advertising or promotional material or in any AGC publication, without permission from or further notice to the participant.

Judging panel

8.—(1) A short-listing panel appointed jointly by AGC and SMU will select the 10 best competition entries for judging by the competition judging panel.

(2) The competition judging panel will comprise members appointed by AGC and SMU.

(3) All decisions of the short-listing panel and competition judging panel are final and non-appealable, and no correspondence will be entertained.

Prizes

9.—(1) The prizes are as follows —

(a) First prize: S\$1,500 and a 4-week attachment with the Legislation and Law Reform Division of AGC, which must commence within one year from the date of the award of the prize, at such time as may be agreed between the winner and AGC;

(b) Second prize: S\$1,000; and

(c) Third prize: S\$500.

(2) Winning entries may be published on AGC's corporate website, subject to the usual editorial procedures.

(3) The award of all or any of the prizes lies solely within the discretion of the competition judging panel.

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, the competition judging panel reserves the right to refuse to award any prize.

Interpretation

10. The decision of the competition judging panel on the interpretation of these Rules shall be final and non-appealable.

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