

THE 42 BEDFORD ROW DISABILITY LAW ESSAY PRIZE 2018 - CALL FOR ENTRIES

The 42 Bedford Row Disability Law Essay Prize is the first academic writing award to be established by the Oxford Faculty of Law which focuses on legal issues affecting persons with a disability. It has been established to draw attention to the professional challenges faced by legal practitioners and academics who work in fields in which issues relating to disability frequently arise. The deadline for submission is: Noon on Friday 27th April 2018 (First Week of Trinity Term). The first place winner will be awarded £500 at a prize-giving ceremony and drinks event, which will be held on Friday 4th May 2018 at 5.00pm. The 42 Bedford Row Disability Law Essay Prize will focus on issues affecting people with a disability and the way in which these issues interact with the law. The most “pressing issues faced by disabled women are the ones faced by most women, except that when you’re disabled, it adds another layer of discrimination,” said Eleanor Lisney, co-founder of the disabled women’s network, Sisters of Frida. The recent Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the initial report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, found that ‘the rights of women and girls with disabilities have not been systematically mainstreamed into both the gender equality and disability agenda’ in the UK (October 2017; para 18). The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities does protect against multiple discrimination, for instance, Article 6 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on women with disabilities, provides that:

- ‘1. States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention’.

In the UK, one model which attempts to protect these important intersectional groups is Section 14 of the Equality Act 2010, which is designed to allow claims for discrimination based on more than one protected characteristic. It has not been brought into force in the 8 years since the passing of the Act.

Essay Question: *How should the law protect against discrimination at the intersection of disability and other protected characteristics, including gender?*

Deadline for Submission: Noon on Friday 27th April 2018

Admissions should be submitted by email to: luke.rostill@law.ox.ac.uk

Word limit (including footnotes): 1,000 (Minimum) to 1,200 (Maximum)¹

Prize-Giving Event: Friday 4th May 2018, 5.00pm

Venue: Lee Shau Kee Seminar Room, Wadham College, Parks Road, OX1 3PN

Participants in this competition will have the chance to:

- Showcase their academic writing and argument to our distinguished judges including, Aysha Ahmad, leading discrimination law barrister at 42 Bedford Row (confirmed), and a leading academic from the Faculty of Law (tbc);
- Win a cash prize of £500 (First Place);
- Win a cash prize of £200 (Second Place);
- Win a cash prize of £100 (Third Place);
- Attend the drinks reception following the essay prize-giving ceremony at which they will have the opportunity to meet experienced barristers and solicitors.

¹ Please consult the Rules for Submission: see Appendix 1.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. THE 42 BEDFORD ROW DISABILITY LAW ESSAY PRIZE 2018 COMPETITION RULES

1. The Essay Question

How should the law protect against discrimination at the intersection of disability and other protected characteristics, including gender?

2. Eligibility and Submission

- (1) The competition is open to all current matriculated and registered visiting students of the University of Oxford.
- (2) Competitors must enter the competition as individuals.
- (3) The essay must be the work of the person who submits it.
- (4) To enter the competition, competitors must submit: (a) an essay that complies with the rules; and (b) a completed version of the cover page contained in Appendix 2, by noon GMT on Friday the 27th of April 2018 to luke.rostill@law.ox.ac.uk

3. Format of Essays

- (1) Essays must be between 1000 and 1200 words in length (including footnotes).
- (2) The essay must be typed (12 point Times New Roman font; text single-spaced; character spacing normal; margins of 2.5cm on all sides of the page).
- (3) Essays must comply with either the *Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities* ('OSCOLA') or the Harvard Referencing System.

4. Assessment of Essays

- (1) All essays that are submitted in accordance with the rules will be judged by the competition's Organising Committee.
- (2) The Organising Committee will shortlist the ten essays that, when measured against the Assessment Criteria, are judged to be the best.
- (3) The Distinguished Judging Panel will decide which essays are to receive a prize by applying the Assessment Criteria to the essays that have been shortlisted.
- (4) For the purposes of rules 4(2) and 4(3), the Assessment Criteria are: (a) the essay pays close attention to the question asked; (b) the essay demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the topic; (c) the essay is accurate, with few substantial errors or omissions; (d) the essay is clear, well-structured and appropriately integrates information and ideas; (e) the essay identifies more than one line of argument and demonstrates a good appreciation of relevant theoretical arguments.

5. The Prizes

- (1) There will be three prizes: First Prize, Second Prize and Third Prize.
- (2) The First Prize is an award of £500.
- (3) The Second Prize is an award of £200.
- (4) The Third Prize is an award of £100.
- (5) In order to collect a prize, competitors must attend the Prize-giving Ceremony on Friday 4th May 2018 at 5.00pm unless (i) they have a good reason not to attend and (ii) they have, if possible, notified the Organising Committee in advance of the Ceremony.



**APPENDIX 2. 42 Bedford Row Disability Law Essay Prize
Trinity Term 2018**

Essay Title:	
Candidate Name:	
Candidate Email Address:	

The length of this essay is _____ words, inclusive of footnotes.

Please tick to confirm the following:

The assessed essay I am submitting is entirely my own work except where otherwise indicated. ☐

I have clearly signalled the presence of quoted or paraphrased material and referenced all sources. ☐

I have not sought assistance from any professional agency. ☐