



COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL YOUNG PERSONS ESSAY PRIZE (yCMI ESSAY PRIZE)

The yCMI Essay Prize was established in 2005 and has been awarded occasionally since that time. It is designed to promote research and writing in the field of maritime law, especially among younger persons at an early stage of their careers.

These are the current yCMI Essay Prize (“the Prize”) Rules:

The yCMI Essay Prize for original and unpublished writing on maritime law is awarded in accordance with these Rules:

1. The Prize will usually be awarded annually, though the CMI shall have the discretion to withhold an award in any year in which there is no CMI international event other than its annual Assembly; or where in the opinion of the judges there is no essay deserving of the award. The CMI shall have the discretion to share the prize among more than one winner.
2. The Prize shall be funded by the CMI and or the CMI Charitable Trust. The process for inviting submissions, adjudicating and awarding the Prize shall be handled by the CMI Executive Council (EXCO) and its Secretariat, in consultation with the yCMI Committee.
3. Unless otherwise decided by EXCO, the Prize shall be an invitation made to the winner to attend the next CMI International Colloquium, Symposium or Conference, free of registration fee and with refund of the winner’s airfare (economy class return from the winner’s home city) and two nights’ accommodation at a suitable hotel in the event city. Winners shall be responsible to obtain necessary visas timeously to enable them to travel to the event city. Visa costs shall be reimbursed by the CMI.
4. To be eligible for the Prize, candidates shall be 35 years or younger on the closing date set annually by the CMI Assembly. They shall at that time (irrespective of their nationality, residence or domicile) be a member of a Maritime Law Association (“MLA”) which is a member of the CMI; or if not such an MLA member, they should submit with their scripts suitable evidence – such as a letter from a non-CMI member MLA, university, research institute, law firm or other employer – confirming that they are actively engaged in the practice, study or research of maritime law.
5. The judges and the award of the Prize
EXCO will appoint a panel of at least three judges each year to assess essays submitted, and to recommend to EXCO whether or not to award the Prize, and if so, to whom. Subject to the remaining provisions of this paragraph, decisions of EXCO relating to the appointment of judges and the awarding of the prize shall be final. Judges may be appointed *ad hoc* for their particular expertise in relation to a specific essay topic, or have a standing appointment, in the sole discretion of EXCO.
The identity of the judges will be made known on the CMI website for any particular year under adjudication. Should any candidate have good reason to believe a judge would be inappropriate to adjudge his or her submission, he or she may submit such reason(s) requesting recusal, in confidence and in writing, to EXCO. EXCO decisions regarding such request shall be final.

6. Timetable of deadlines for submission of essays:

- a. EXCO shall, before each Assembly, resolve whether a Prize is to be awarded for the year to follow, and shall decide whether or not a specific topic or subject matter should be the subject of the essay. That resolve shall be announced at the Assembly and shall thereafter immediately be publicised in the CMI Newsletter, on the CMI website and in such other manner as EXCO considers fit.
- b. The Prize shall be awarded to the best essay submitted in relation to the topic nominated by the Council, or, in the absence of nomination, on any topic relevant to maritime law. Where no specific topic is nominated by EXCO for any year, preference may be given in the adjudication process to essays covering topics currently under review by the CMI, as evidenced on its website.
- c. Essays should not exceed 6,000 words, including footnotes, but excluding table of contents and index.
- d. Candidates are advised to use OSCOLA (Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities available for download at www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/publications/oscola) or similar formatting of their submissions, paginated, with title page, table of contents and where appropriate, an index.
- e. All candidates wishing to submit an essay for consideration for the prize shall apply to the CMI Secretary-General at rosaliebalkin1@gmail.com AND also to the CMI Secretariat at admin-antwerp@comitemaritime.org for an anonymous submission code. Each essay shall then be submitted anonymously, making use of that code. Any author who makes mention of his or her name in his/her essay shall be disqualified.
- f. Essays, identified only by code, shall be delivered by due date, in electronic pdf format to rosaliebalkin1@gmail.com AND admin-antwerp@comitemaritime.org.
- g. When submitting essays, authors must supply the Secretary-General with a separate page stating the author's code, name, nationality, contact email and telephone number; the title of the work; and the following statement:
"This essay is entirely the author's own original and unpublished work. All extracts quoted from the work of others are suitably identified as quotes, and are footnoted as to source".
- h. The use of artificial intelligence tools is permitted solely as an assistive aid (including, by way of example, language refinement, structural editing, or bibliographic support) and must not replace the author's own intellectual contribution or original legal analysis. Any use of AI tools in the preparation of an essay must be expressly disclosed by the author. The originality requirement of the Essay Prize remains fundamental, and the essay must reflect the author's independent intellectual ownership and reasoning.
- i. Essays must be submitted in English or French. In the latter case, it would help the adjudication process if candidates are able to submit an English translation.

7. The Prize winner will be announced not later than two months prior to the CMI event which the Prize winner will be invited to attend to present a paper based upon his or her winning essay. The essay will require editing by the winner into a paper of sufficient length to accommodate its presentation within an available timeslot at the forthcoming event. This is usually 20 – 30 minutes. Winners will be asked to prepare illustrative slides, and an abstract of their paper prior to the event for uploading onto the CMI event website.
8. Unsuccessful candidates will be notified accordingly, but neither EXCO nor the Secretariat will be able to enter any correspondence relating to the award of the Prize. No correspondence between candidates and judges shall be permitted unless initiated by a judge.
9. The CMI reserves the right to publish any essays submitted for the yCMI Essay Prize (whether prizewinners or not) in its Yearbook and or on the CMI Website, although authors may also publish elsewhere.
10. The yCMI Essay Prize will be awarded only once to the same person.