

2023-2024 DEAD HAND WRITING COMPETITION



PRESENTED BY THE PROBATE, TRUSTS, AND ESTATES SECTION OF THE MSBA, HCBA, AND RCBA

The Probate, Trusts, and Estates Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, Hennepin County Bar Association, and Ramsey County Bar Association invites all eligible law students to showcase their writing skills and explore the laws of succession in the Dead Hand Writing Competition.

\$5,000 PRIZE!!!

WRITING TOPIC:

A handful of U.S. states have enacted statutes authorizing antemortem probates and/or trust validations, but Minnesota has no such laws. **For this year's writing competition, address both of the following questions:**

1. Should Minnesota enact statutes to authorize antemortem probate proceedings and/or trust validations? Explore the advantages and disadvantages.
2. Imagine that Minnesota lawmakers have resolved to enact antemortem probate statutes. What features should Minnesota's statutes include? To what extent should Minnesota's statutes be consistent with those of other states? Use existing statutes as a guide for discussion.

Submissions should be research-based and use endnotes to cite to appropriate sources, such as case law, statutes, industry publications, and other reputable sources.

Who May Enter: (i) Any current J.D. candidate enrolled at the University of Minnesota Law School, University of St. Thomas Law School, or Mitchell Hamline School of Law; and (ii) any current J.D. candidate enrolled at an ABA-accredited law school within the United States who is interested in practicing in Minnesota.

All submissions must be received by February 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Send submissions to the attention of Tram Nguyen at tnguyen@mnbars.org with the subject line "Dead Hand Writing Competition." Eligible submissions will include two separate documents:

1. A cover letter that provides the author's name, address, phone number, email address, school of attendance, and month and year of anticipated law school graduation.
2. An original paper that meets the following requirements:
 - A minimum of five pages, exclusive of citations;
 - Contents must not include any identifying information;
 - Citation to authority in endnotes in the form prescribed by *The Bluebook*;
 - 8 1/2" x 11" paper; one-inch margins; double-spaced; 12-point, Times New Roman font.

Visit <https://www.mnbar.org/members/sections/probate-and-trust-law-section/writing-competition> for more information.