



Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts announces its Annual Writing Competition sponsored by Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP.

PMC recognizes the importance of excellence in legal analysis and writing skills, and seeks to award a student enrolled in an ABA-approved Pennsylvania-area law school for authoring a top-quality Competition submission. The First Place winner will receive \$3000.00 presented at PMC's Spring Benefit on May 11, 2026 and the submission will be published and publicized.

ELIGIBILITY

This Competition is open to full- and part-time law students who are in good standing in this 2025-26 academic year at one of the following institutions:

Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law
University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School
Temple University Beasley School of Law,
Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law,
Widener University Commonwealth Law School
Penn State Dickinson Law
University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University

TOPIC

In 2025, millions of dollars were spent on three elections for retention of justices on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, including, according to the Brennan Center, an estimated \$9.5 million on television ads alone. What problems, if any, are posed by such spending with respect to electing or retaining nonpartisan justices who will serve the best interests of the Commonwealth and its residents, and what can be done to address those problems without infringing on the right to free speech and expression?

RULES

Candidates may submit a law review quality submission of 2000-2500 words. *AI may be used only for background research and the identification of source materials, and it must be accurate; it may not be used to draft any portion of the essay.*

The submission may not have been published previously, although it may have been prepared in connection with a law school course or for a law journal. The submission also may not have been submitted for any other competition during the time when it is under consideration for this Competition, until after the time when awards are announced. The submission must be the work of one author alone (joint submissions will not be considered), and the author must certify that the submission has been prepared without substantial editing from others and without the use of AI.

Submission is due by April 3, 2026 by email to dgross@pmconline.org