



**Papers are now invited for the  
Annual SCL NA  
*Hardhat Writing Award***

The Society is delighted to announce the following prize offering for 2019:

**General Prize – \$1000**

**Student Prize – \$500**

High Commendation – \$500 (General), \$250 (Student)

Commendation – \$250 (General), \$150 (Student)

(In addition, all entrants awarded a prize or commendation will, in addition, be granted complimentary membership in the SCL NA for one year.)

The Society of Construction Law North America offers the Hardhat Writing Award annually (2019 being the inaugural year for the award) for the best essay submitted to the Society for publication in the field of construction law.

The purpose of the Hardhat Writing competition is to solicit quality essays on issues of construction law and its application to the construction industry. In this regard the form of the submission is an essay and not a research paper. An essay has been defined in a variety of ways. One definition is a "prose composition with a focused subject of discussion" or a "long, systematic discourse". Aldous Huxley notes that "the essay is a literary device for saying almost everything about almost anything", and adds that "by tradition, almost by definition, the essay is a short piece."

Accordingly, candidates may select any subject matter concerning the theory or practice of construction law or its application in the construction industry and are encouraged to offer a focused discussion reflecting the author's opinions, criticism, arguments, and/or observations on the subject selected.

The Society encourages entries from all disciplines and levels of experience. Entries for the General and Student Divisions will be judged separately.

It is the intent of this competition to produce a number of quality papers. The Judging Panel will score submitted essays as follows:

- 45% - 'Originality of thought or approach and contribution to the study or practice of construction law or its application in the industry'.
- 35% - 'Quality of analysis, explanation and discussion of chosen topic'. Considerable weight is given to the freshness of ideas and the value of the work.
- 10% - The extent of research evident in the paper through the extent of the bibliography and/or original research.
- 10% - 'Clarity of presentation, grammar, spelling, punctuation and any references'. Entries must conform to the Society's template and should conform to a recognized academic writing style guide such as: The Business Style Handbook, The Cambridge Guide to English Usage, or the Chicago Manual of Style. Entries should also conform with the American English spelling rules.

Entries *must* be original. This means that papers submitted for the Hardhat Prize *cannot* have been:

- Published in any form prior to the submission deadline referred to below, the exception will be for papers submitted to, and published by the Society, in the current year, providing all other requirements have been met;
- Submitted for judging for any other prior to the submission deadline for the Hardhat Prize;
- Submitted for a prize prior to the notification of the winners for the Hardhat Prize; nor be substantially similar to any paper which the author has previously published.

The Society reserves the right to publish any entries in hard copy and/or on its website, with copyright being held jointly by the author and the Society. The Society will not unreasonably refuse publication elsewhere of any entry provided that a note acknowledging the paper's original submission to (and, if applicable, publication by) the Society in respect of the Hardhat Writing Award is included in such publication.

Entries are to be:

- Between 6,000 and 8,000 words in length including all footnotes, headings and other references. The abstract and bibliography are excluded from the work count. The judging panel will disregard the text of and/or penalize the paper that does not conform with the required word count above. The word count must be stated at the end of the paper.
- **The essay will be identified by the essay title only.** It is important that the author's name, company name or any other identifier does not appear anywhere on the paper itself. Care is to be taken in referencing papers the author has previously published; they are to be cited as any other document in the third person.
- Accompanied by a covering letter or email:
  - To include the title of the essay; the author's name; daytime telephone number; and, email address;
  - Confirmation the author accepts the conditions set forth in the rules in this invitation;
  - An indication whether the essay is submitted in the General or Student Division (entrants in the Student Division must be currently-enrolled students and are to provide the name of their institution and student number; the same entry may be entered in both divisions, but only one prize or commendation may be awarded per entry).

Submit using the Society's template. The template can be downloaded at the Society's website: <https://www.scl-na.org>. The Society retains absolute discretion as to whether to award a prize in any category and, where a prize is awarded in a category, whether to award it to more than one entry (in which case the advertised prize would be shared equally). The Society's decisions in relation to award of Prizes and commendations is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Joint entries (no more than two authors) will be accepted but joint authors are to share any prize awarded.

Entrants to the Hardhat Writing Award are expected to comply with recognized standards and principles of academic integrity in their writing. These include the avoidance of plagiarism and academic misconduct in their various forms. All papers submitted for judging in the Prize will be analyzed via checking software such as Turnitin (see [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)). If the Chair of the judging panel is reasonably satisfied, using that software or otherwise, that there has been a substantial contravention of recognized standards or principles of academic integrity, he or she will take any action he or she considers appropriate (in his or her absolute discretion) in relation to the judging of the paper, which may include rejection of the paper from the judging process or instructions to the judging panel as to the manner in which they judge the paper.

Entries must be submitted in Microsoft Word and received by 4.00pm Pacific Standard Time on **Thursday 5 December 2019**, by email to the Paper Committee Chairs Walied Abdeldayem and Bruce Hallock ([walied.abdeldayem@consultidea.net](mailto:walied.abdeldayem@consultidea.net) or [Brucenwg@aol.com](mailto:Brucenwg@aol.com)). ***Late entries will not be forwarded to the judges. Signed authorization forms are due by October 31, 2019.***

The winners of the Hardhat Writing Award will be announced on February 15, 2020 and will be recognized and offered a speaking slot at the upcoming SCL NA conference (TBD).

These rules will be posted on [www.scl-na.org](http://www.scl-na.org) and may be altered at any time by the Society.

Please direct any queries to the Chair of the Judging Panel, Walied Abdeldayem at [walied.abdeldayem@consultidea.net](mailto:walied.abdeldayem@consultidea.net) or the co-Chair, Bruce Hallock at [Brucenwg@aol.com](mailto:Brucenwg@aol.com).