

**JUDGE THOMAS TANG
WRITING COMPETITION
2013**

The State Bar of Arizona Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law is pleased to announce the nineteenth annual Judge Thomas Tang Writing Competition. The competition is named after the late Honorable Thomas Tang, who served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in recognition of and to honor his special achievements and interest in diversifying the legal profession.

History of the Competition

In 1993, the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Arizona adopted the Statement of Goals for Increasing Minority and Women representation and retention. This Statement promotes cultural and gender diversity in the Arizona legal profession by suggesting ways in which law firms and corporate, government or public agency law departments can increase the representation and retention of minorities and women in the legal profession.

In support of the Statement of Goals, the Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law established the Judge Thomas Tang Writing Competition to heighten the awareness of law students about the importance of a diverse legal profession and to help ensure that future members of the Bar will strive to support diversity in the legal profession.

In 2012, Shijie Feng of the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law was awarded First Place and \$1,000. Chelsea Peterson of the Phoenix School of Law was awarded Second Place and \$500.

Eligibility

All law students attending Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law and the Phoenix School of Law are eligible.

Awards

As in past years, \$1,000 will be awarded for first place and \$500 will be awarded for second place. The winners will be presented with their awards at the State Bar of Arizona's Minority Bar Convention luncheon on Friday, April 5, 2013. The Convention is being held at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix.

Deadline for Submission

Essays must be delivered via email to Randy Aoyama (raoyama@rcdmlaw.com) no later than **5:00 p.m. Arizona time on Monday, March 25, 2013.**

Essay Requirements

Essays must be the original work product of a single individual and must be prepared for this competition and not previously published. No multiple-author entries will be accepted. This essay contest does not allow for editing of essays by any others.

Each entrant must assign to the State Bar of Arizona Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law all rights, title, and interest in the essay submitted. It is the policy of the Committee to relinquish the assignment of rights in all but the winning essays after the judges have made their decision.

The essay is to be double-spaced in Times New Roman font with a character size of at least 12-point. The total number of words, including titles, citations, and all material in footnotes, must not exceed 2,000 words. There is no page limit, just the word limit. You may rely on the word count feature of your word processing program (remember to include titles, citations, and footnotes in the word calculation).

The essay must be delivered electronically via e-mail attachment by no later than **5:00 p.m. Arizona time on Monday, March 25, 2013**. You should send the essay electronically in Word or WordPerfect format to:

Randy Aoyama
Chair of the Judge Tang Writing Competition
raoyama@rcdmlaw.com

Please do not place your name on the essay itself. Instead, include in the body of your e-mail the following information:

1. Your full name
2. Your full mailing address
3. Your telephone number
4. The title of your essay
5. The name of your law school
6. Your expected graduation date

Submission of an essay automatically signals your agreement to be bound by the following statement:

I hereby assign to the State Bar of Arizona Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law all my rights, title and interest in the essay now submitted by me. I certify that I am an eligible entrant and that the essay was prepared by me for this competition and has not heretofore been published. I agree to abide by the decision of the judges of the competition and the selection of the winning essays. If my entry is judged to be the winner, I also agree to the editing of the essay by the Committee, by the *Arizona Attorney* or by any other State Bar of Arizona publication.

The 2013 Essay Topic

It has been 10 years since the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, in which the Court upheld by a 5-4 vote the ability of admissions officers at the University of Michigan Law School to consider an applicant's race as one factor among many in their efforts to achieve a critical mass of diversity in the entering class. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor authored the majority opinion, in which she notably wrote:

It has been 25 years since Justice Powell first approved the use of race to further an interest in student body diversity in the context of public higher education. Since that time, the number of minority applicants with high grades and test scores has indeed increased. We expect that 25 years from now, the use of racial preferences will no longer be necessary to further the interest approved today.

The Supreme Court is currently considering *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*, in which the Petitioner directly challenges the *Grutter* decision. In addition, Arizona outlawed the consideration of race/ethnicity as a factor in admissions to its public universities in 2010.

As law students and future attorneys, please describe your thoughts as to whether Arizona's prohibition on considering an applicant's race/ethnicity was enacted too early, and when, if ever, law schools should stop considering an applicant's race/ethnicity in making admissions decisions.

The purpose of the competition is to generate civil debate on matters related to diversity. **All viewpoints are welcome.** Entries are judged by their clarity, reasoning, originality and technical quality of writing. Research and citations are not required but are permitted. Entries are to be submitted electronically according to the instructions on the previous pages. **Entries are due by 5:00 p.m. Arizona time on Monday, March 25, 2013.** The winners will be notified by April 1, 2013. **The award winners are asked to attend the luncheon at the State Bar of Arizona's Minority Bar Convention at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 5, 2013** to be recognized and to receive their awards. This year's Minority Bar Convention will take place at the Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 East Cotton Center Boulevard, Phoenix, AZ 85040.

Questions about the competition should be directed to Randy Aoyama, Chair of the Tang Writing Competition, at 602-256-3056.