The Peter Birks Prizes for Outstanding Legal Scholarship

Each year the Society offers two prizes for outstanding published books by scholars in their early careers. The prizes will be presented at the annual dinner of the Society at the Annual Conference. The value of the prizes will be £1,000 for the first prize and £300 for the second prize. The judges may decide to award one prize or not to award a prize, or may decide to divide the whole sum or either prize between two winners. The judges are the President, the Vice-President and the Immediate Past President of the Society. They are entitled to take advice from such professorial members of the Society as they see fit.

THE RULES

(1) EVIDENCE OF OUTSTANDING LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP

The prizes are offered only for published books. For the avoidance of doubt, this means authored or co-authored books, not edited books, e.g. of contributed essays.

(2) ELIGIBLE AUTHORS

The prizes are open to all members of the Society who:

(i) Were fully paid-up members of the Society by 1st October preceding the closing date for nominations; and

(ii) on the closing date for nominations have been in full-time academic employment for not more than 15 years (or its equivalent on a part-time basis) by that date; and

(iii) were not professors when the book in question was published but were then members of the Society.

(iv) if joint authors entered a book, both authors had to be eligible under these rules in order for the book to be eligible. Any prize would be shared equally between eligible joint authors.

(3) ELIGIBLE BOOKS

Books by eligible authors will be considered provided that:

(i) they are or have been published by the closing date for nominations; and
(ii) they have been published within the 24 months preceding that date; and
(iii) they have not been nominated in an earlier SLS prize competition.

(4) NOMINATORS

Nominations must be made by either a head of department or any two members of the Society.

(5) CONTENT OF NOMINATIONS

The nomination must include:

(i) a brief statement of the reasons why the book is being nominated;
(ii) a statement of the month and year in which the book was published;
(iii) a statement showing that the author is a qualified member of the Society within (2) above and has consented to the nomination; and
(iv) three copies of the book (which will not subsequently be returned).

(6) CLOSING DATE

(i) The nomination (as detailed in (5) above) must reach the Administrative Secretary by email to admin@legalscholars.ac.uk no later than 5pm on the last Friday of May.

(ii) The books (3 copies) must be received by the closing date. Please contact the Administrative Secretary by email to admin@legalscholars.ac.uk to confirm where to send the books.

(iii) No extensions of time will be granted and no late applications will be considered.