The Peter Birks and Margaret Brazier Prizes for Outstanding Legal Scholarship

Each year the Society offers four prizes for outstanding published books by scholars in their early and mid-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 £500 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 for the Birks Prize are the President, the Vice-President, and the Immediate Past President of the Society. The judges for the Brazier Prize are the President, the Vice-President, and the Vice-President Elect of the Society. They are entitled to take advice from such members of the Society as they see fit.

THE RULES FOR THE BIRKS EARLY CAREER PRIZE

(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 a member of the Society on the date of publication of the book AND a fully paid-up member by 30th September preceding the closing date for nominations; and

(ii) Have been in full-time academic employment for not more than 6 years (or its equivalent on a part-time basis) on the closing date for nominations; and

(iii) Were not professors on the date of publication of the book.

If joint authors enter a book, all authors must be eligible under these rules in order for the book to be eligible. Any prize will be shared equally between 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

Nominees cannot nominate themselves. Nominations must be made by either a head of department or any two members of the Society. If the nominee is themselves a head of department, two members of the Society must submit the nomination.

(5) CONTENT OF NOMINATIONS

The Proforma Nomination Form (found on the SLS website) must be used for all 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) confirmation 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 **Sunday 31 May 2026**.

(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.

(7) JUDGES

The judges for the Birks Prize are the President, the Vice-President, and the Immediate Past President of the Society. Should any of the judges find they have a conflict of interests, eg a personal or institutional link with a nominee, they shall

recuse themselves. The President (or Vice-President should the President be conflicted) shall co-opt an alternate judge who may be drawn inter alia from the Executive or Research Committee.

THE RULES FOR THE BRAZIER MID-CAREER PRIZE

(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:

(iii) Were a member of the Society on the date of publication of the book AND a fully paid-up member by 30th September preceding the closing date for nominations; and

(iv) Have been in full-time academic employment for more than 6 years but not more than 20 years (or its equivalent on a part-time basis) on the closing date for nominations; and

(iii) Were not professors on the date of publication of the book.

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If joint authors enter a book, all authors must be eligible under these rules in order for the book to be eligible. Any prize will be shared equally between 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

Nominees cannot nominate themselves. Nominations must be made by either a head of department or any two members of the Society. If the nominee is

themselves a head of department, two members of the Society must submit the nomination.

(5) CONTENT OF NOMINATIONS

The Proforma Nomination Form (found on the SLS website) must be used for all 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) confirmation 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

(iii) The nomination (as detailed in (5) above) must reach the Administrative Secretary by email to admin@legalscholars.ac.uk no later than 5pm on **Sunday 31 May 2026**.

(iv) 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.

(7) JUDGES

The judges for the Brazier Prize are the President, the Vice-President, and the Vice-President Elect of the Society. Should any of the judges find they have a conflict of interests, eg a personal or institutional link with a nominee, they shall recuse themselves. The President (or Vice-President should the President be conflicted) shall co-opt an alternate judge who may be drawn inter alia from the Executive or Research Committee.