Insolvency Institute of Canada

LAW STUDENT WRITING AWARD PROGRAM 2026-2027

A competition for full-time undergraduate students in Canadian Law Schools

The IIC Law Student Writing Award Program provides the opportunity for undergraduate law students to explore and discover the many facets of corporate insolvency and restructuring law through the research and development of papers.

THE INSOLVENCY INSTITUTE OF CANADA

The IIC is Canada's premier private sector insolvency organization. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of excellence and thought leadership in commercial insolvency and restructuring policy and practice in Canada. Members of the IIC are drawn from the most senior and experienced members of the insolvency community. Membership is limited to 135 insolvency practitioners (trustees, lawyers and restructuring professionals) who are joined by representatives of regulatory and compensation bodies, major financial institutions and prominent members of the academic community.

THE IIC LAW STUDENT WRITING AWARD PROGRAM

The IIC Law Student Writing Awards, was designed to support and reward academic scholarship in the area of corporate insolvency and restructuring.

This program gives undergraduate students the opportunity to research insolvency issues and bring their proposals for reform to the attention of the business and legal community which they are about to enter.

ELIGIBILITY

- The competition is open to law students in full-time undergraduate law programs at Canadian universities. Entries may be submitted in English or French.
- Each student is limited to one entry. There is no limit to the number of entries that may be submitted from one university, but each paper must bear the endorsement of a law faculty member.
- Papers must be no longer than 3,000 words (exclusive of footnotes) and must be typed. Papers may be jointly written.
- Papers must be submitted electronically to the executive director at the email provided in the entry form by the deadline.
- The paper must be focused on restructuring in an insolvency context.

2025-2026 AWARD WINNERS

1ST PLACE, $7,500

Joe Vukasovic, Queen's University

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Kevin McElcheran **Paper:** *From Presumption to Proof: Reasserting Evidentiary Discipline in Third Party Releases After Lion Electric."*

2ND PLACE, $5,000

Wyatt Schnorr, Queen's University

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Kevin McElcheran **Paper:** *"A Privilege Without Principle: The Crown's Super-Priority for Unremitted Source Deductions in Bankruptcy."*

3RD PLACE, $2,500

Sachkirat Mann, Queen's University

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Kevin McElcheran **Paper:** *"Bankruptcy Remote, Not Cost Remote: A Benefit-Based Case for Proportional Cost Allocation Against Securitization Financiers in the Pride Group Holdings CCAA Proceedings."*

2026-2027 AWARDS

First, second and third prizes of $7,500, $5,000 and $2,500 will be awarded. Papers may also be selected for publication in the *Journal of the Insolvency Institute of Canada,* alongside submissions from the leading experts in the field. The prize for the first-place winner will be presented at the 2027 Annual Conference which will be held in the fall of 2027, location to be announced. Both the first place winner and their *faculty sponsor will be invited guests of the IIC at the conference, with complimentary conference registration (including accommodations). Travel costs will be reimbursed. If a co-authored paper is selected for first place, the division of the prize and the reimbursed travel costs will be entirely at the discretion of the winners.

**Faculty sponsors who are IIC members are not eligible for the complimentary registration and travel as attending the conference is a requirement of membership.*

All papers provided to the Judges are confidential and do not include the author's name or university affiliation to ensure impartiality during the judging and winning paper selection process.

Apply by June 14, 2027! 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes of $7,500, $5,000 & $2,500

PANEL OF JUDGES

PANEL CHAIR — DAVID BISH
Torys LLP, Toronto, ON

JEFFREY OLIVER
Cassels Brock & Blackwell, Calgary, AB

LISA HIEBERT
Fasken, Vancouver, BC

MICHELLE PICKETT
PricewaterhouseCoopers Canada, Toronto, ON

ALAN HUTCHENS
Alvarez & Marsal
Toronto, ON

MASSIMO STARNINO
Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP
Toronto, ON

GUILLAUME MICHAUD
Norton Rose Fulbright Canada, Montreal, QC

Insolvency Institute of Canada

LAW STUDENT WRITING AWARD PROGRAM 2026-2027

ENTRY FORM

CLOSING DATE: JUNE 14, 2027

Title and Subject of paper:

University and Program in which Author(s) is/are enrolled:

Name of Entrant(s):

1

2

Home Address:

City: **Province:** **Postal Code:**

Telephone Number:

Email Address of Entrant(s) 1:

Email Address of Entrant(s) 2:

☐ I certify that the submission entered above is an original composition unpublished in its present form in any publication. I agree to the terms concerning the submission of this entry as outlined below in Submission of Entries.

Name and Signature of the Faculty Sponsor:

Position of Sponsor:

Office Telephone Number:

Email Address of Faculty Sponsor:

☐ I endorse the submission of this paper to the IIC Law Student Writing Awards Program and confirm that the author is a full-time undergraduate law student at the University noted above.

NOTE: Faculty sponsors who are IIC members are not eligible for the complimentary registration and travel as attending the conference is a requirement of membership.

Submission of Entries:

Entries must be submitted by no later than June 14, 2027.

All entries will become the exclusive property of the IIC and may be published in the *Journal of the Insolvency Institute of Canada*, on the IIC's website, and/or used in any other manner whatsoever in the IIC's sole discretion. Each entrant waives all proprietary rights they may have in and to the paper submitted (including revised and updated versions thereof). Publication or re-publication of the paper (including revised and updated versions thereof) may be done only with the prior express written permission of the IIC in its sole discretion. All entries must be for the IIC's exclusive consideration, and simultaneous submissions to other competitions or publications is not permitted.

Please Contact:

Executive Director Meghan Cross for more information

(613) 898-3078
mcross@insolvency.ca