



The Advocates for Life Legal Writing Contest

Thank you for your interest in the 2015 Advocates for Life Legal Writing Contest, administered by Americans United for Life. Please read this document carefully before submitting your entry.

Eligibility

- This contest is open to law students at ABA-accredited law schools who graduate in the spring of 2014 or later.
- This contest is open to individuals and to pairs. If a pair competes, both members of the pair must be students at ABA-accredited law schools who graduate in the spring of 2014 or later. If a pair wins, the monetary prize will be split equally between the two co-authors.

Entries

- Entries must be responsive to the prompt below.
- Entries must be saved as a Microsoft Word document and emailed to advocates@aul.org, **no later than 11:59 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2015.**
- Entries should use 12-point Times New Roman font, be double spaced, and have one-inch margins.
- Please include a cover page which states your name, school, and month and year of graduation. **This information may not appear anywhere else in your entry**, so that all entries will be judged blind.
- The maximum word count, without footnotes, is 10,000 words. Shorter entries are strongly encouraged.
- Citations must be formatted according to the Bluebook.
- Any entry that is not the author's original work and/or contains plagiarism will be excluded from the contest.
- Any entry that has been previously published will be excluded from the contest.
- Entries should be submitted to advocates@aul.org

Prompt

The state of Euphoria has been admitted as the 51st state of the Union, and is a member of the recently created 14th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In February, 2015, Euphoria enacted a twenty week, or five month, limitation on abortions. Euphoria adopted substantially the law passed by the state of Arizona. The Arizona law was, however, enjoined by the Ninth Circuit in 2013, and the Supreme Court declined review in January 2014. *Isaacson v. Horne*, 716 F. 3d 1213, cert denied sub nom *Horne v. Isaacson*, ___U.S. ___, 134 S.Ct. 905, 187 Led.2d 778 (2014).

The Euphoria law, in pertinent part, states:

- A. Except in a medical emergency, a person shall not perform, induce or attempt to perform or induce an abortion unless the physician or the referring physician has first made a determination of the probable gestational age of the unborn child.
- B. Except in a medical emergency, a person shall not knowingly perform, induce or attempt to perform or induce an abortion on a pregnant woman if the probable gestational age of her unborn child has been determined to be at least twenty weeks.
- C. A “medical emergency” is defined as circumstances in which a pregnant woman’s life or a major bodily function is threatened.

After hearings, the legislature of Euphoria found (a) that the health risks to women are substantially greater at and after 20 weeks and (b) that the fetus can feel pain by 20 weeks. The law was challenged in both federal district court and in the 14th Circuit. The law was upheld in 2015 in both instances, in March and in June, respectively, though the opinions have not yet been published.

In light of the split between the 14th and 9th Circuits on this issue, the Supreme Court granted review.

Write the opinion for the majority of the Supreme Court, upholding the constitutionality of the Euphoria and Arizona laws.

Judging

- Entries will be judged on scholarly excellence. Entries should apply appropriate constitutional principles and legal precedents, and analyze relevant historical and sociological information. Clearly articulated arguments, correct grammar, and thorough citations are essential.

Prize

- The winner (individual or pair) will be awarded \$1500.
- The second place essay will be awarded \$500.
- The winning entry will be published in *Human Life Review*.
- The winner will be recognized at the Advocates for Life reception in January 2016 in Washington, DC.

Rights

By submitting your entry to this contest, you grant Americans United for Life a non-exclusive right to distribute your entry and excerpts of your entry.