



CALL FOR ESSAYS FOR THE 2025 SEASON OF THE SALRC LEGAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION IN HONOUR OF THE LATE JUSTICE YVONNE MOKGORO IN CELEBRATION OF 30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY.

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) is pleased to announce that, from this season onwards and for the next five years of the competition, the Legal Essay Writing Competition will be dedicated to honour the late Justice Yvonne Mokgoro's distinguished contribution to constitutional jurisprudence, human rights, transformation, and the advancement of justice in South Africa.

The SALRC in partnership with Juta & Co invites young legal minds in generating innovative ideas on issues of law reform.

Drawing on the inspirational legacy of Justice Yvonne Mokgoro, the SALRC and in partnership with sponsors Juta and Company, invites law students studying towards an LLB or LLM at a South African university to submit their innovative ideas reflecting how law reform has contributed to South Africa's democracy in celebration of 30 years of democracy.

Join the ranks of legal scholars destined to play a future role in shaping South Africa's evolving jurisprudence by entering this prestigious competition and stand a chance of winning prizes from Incredible Connection. Essays are due on 31 July 2026 at midnight and should be submitted to: Reform@justice.gov.za and copy ADzebu@justice.gov.za

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

- The South African Law Reform Commission Essay Competition encourages critical legal writing by students while generating new ideas for law reform. These ideas should align with South Africa's priorities as a developmental state and be aimed at keeping the law abreast of societal developments and in tune with the needs of South Africa's diverse population and national policy priorities.
- Essays can be on any topic relating to the modernisation, improvement, development or reform of any aspect, area or branch of South African law.
- Entries should be in English and must be 4000 to 6000 words in length.
- The competition will be judged by a panel appointed by the SALRC.

WHO CAN ENTER?

- The competition is divided into two categories and is open to registered LLB and LLM students respectively at a South African university or tertiary institution, in any year of study.
- Abridged versions of completed Masters dissertations will also be accepted.
- PhD students are not eligible to enter.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

The following information needs to be included in your submission:

- Name and Surname.
- Contact number & email address.
- Name of the institution at which you are studying.
- The category which you are entering (LLB or LLM) and the word count of your essay.
- Essays must be submitted via email in MS Word or PDF format, clean versions, (without plagiarism report) for assessment, together with a separate similarity report.
- No late submissions will be accepted. Essays that are below or exceed the word count, or do not have a plagiarism report and/or have a similarity index below 15% will be disqualified.

ABOUT THE PRIZES

- Winners of the LLB and LLM categories of the 2025 edition of the competition will get a R20 000 Incredible Connection voucher.
- The Supervisor of the winner of both LLB and LLM competition categories will each receive a R2 500 Juta credit voucher.
- Runners-up of the LLB and LLM categories will get a R10 000 Incredible Connection Voucher.
- The Supervisor of the runner-up of both LLB and LLM competition categories will each receive a R2 500 Juta credit voucher.

PLAGIARISM NOTIFICATION:

By submitting your work, you are confirming that it is your own work and have fully acknowledged all the sources you referenced. For further information regarding the SALRC on plagiarism, please read the Legal Essay Writing Competition Rules.