

Call for Essays:
ELSA x LexisNexis Essay Competition on the Rule of Law

Topic: *Populism and the Rule of Law*

The political landscape across the globe witnesses populist movements. While populism is often presented as a response to the perceived failings of political elites and institutions, its interaction with the rule of law raises critical and timely questions about the resilience of democratic systems, the separation of powers, and their consequences on the protection of individual rights.

Populism is a political approach that claims to represent the voice and interests of "the people" against a corrupt or disconnected elite.

The Rule of Law is the principle that all individuals and institutions, including the government, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated, with a guaranteed right to appeal.

Participants are encouraged to explore topics such as:

- Populist governments and their impact on institutions
- Populism's challenge to judicial independence and constitutional checks and balances
- How populist narratives frame law, legality, and justice
- The role of the rule of law in countering authoritarian tendencies
- Comparative analysis between regions or legal systems
- Can populism and the rule of law coexist in a democracy?

This topic invites critical reflection on how legal systems can adapt, respond, or resist in the face of populist challenges, and what this means for the future of democracy.

Deadline for Submissions: 8th June 2025

More information on submission specifications lawreview.elsa.org/rule-of-law.
For additional inquiries, contact director.publications@elsa.org.