

ELSA X LexisNexis Rule of Law Essay Competition 2025

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Topic of the Competition:

“Populism and the Rule of Law”

Submission Requirements

Submissions for the ELSA x LexisNexis Essay Competition must:

- Use in British English in compliance with the [Language Manual](#);
- Be the original work of the author(s) submitting them for the competition;
- Comply with the ELSA Law Review [Plagiarism Policy](#);
- Comply with the ELSA Law Review [Style Guide](#);
- Be referenced in accordance with the Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA);
- Not have been published previously in any capacity;
- Include a short abstract, consisting of a maximum of 100 words, as well as an author's biography not exceeding 50 words;
- Be submitted as a file readable by Microsoft Word;
- Be no longer than 7,500 words including footnotes and appendices.

Any submissions not meeting the above-mentioned criteria shall not be taken into consideration during the initial assessment phase and shall not be peer-reviewed.

All the essays shall be submitted on the relevant form on the [website](#). Essays submitted after **08/06/2025 23:59 CET** shall not be taken into consideration.

The winning essay shall be rewarded with the **LexisNexis Rule of Law Award** and will be published **in the ELSA Law Review Vol XVI**. The Award is provided by LexisNexis – the Rule of Law partner of ELSA.

Please email any questions, comments or otherwise to ELSA International's Director for Publications: director.publications@elsa.org.

The criteria used by the Editorial Board during the initial assessment phase shall be the following:

Assessment criteria

Relevance

- Does the essay **comply** with the topic of the Essay Competition?
- Is there a **clear and interesting thesis**?
- Does the author show a **good grasp** of the essay topic, developing it with depth?
- Is the essay **understandable** to a reader that is not familiar with the topic?
- Does the essay make an original contribution to the field, through **new arguments/ perspectives/ conclusions/ recommendations** on the topic?
- Will the essay capture and maintain the **reader's attention**?

Structure and Style

- Does the essay adhere to the **Style Guide**?
- Do the **title and abstract** reflect the contents of the essay?
- Is there a clear **introduction, main body and conclusion**?
- Is there coherence to the sentences and paragraphs?

Use of Language

- Is the use of language consistent with the recommendations of the **ELSA Law Review Language Manual**?
- Is there a consistent use of **non-discriminatory and gender-neutral language**?
- Is the English language and punctuation consistently and accurately in the style of **British English**?
- Is the use of British English in the standard and legal form to a **high enough standard** expected for the ELSA Law Review?
- Is there a **logical flow and structure** in the language used?

Sources and Referencing

- Does the submission cite sources in accordance with **OSCOLA**?
- Does the submission appear to be in **compliance** with the **ELSA Law Review Plagiarism Policy**?
- Does the range of sources referenced reflect the submission?