WRITING PRIZE 2026

REGULATIONS

Purpose
To foster and reward research and writing on the intersection of the law and issues of concern to women and/or women and children which encompass the wider objectives of AWLA.

Who Can Apply?
Any person who identifies as a woman who is studying towards an LLB, LLB (Hons), LLM and PhD) at the University of Auckland and Auckland University of Technology.

Value
$1,000 - payment will be made in a manner and on such conditions as the Auckland Women Lawyers' Association ("AWLA") in its sole discretion thinks fit.

The best entrant from each of the University of Auckland and Auckland University of Technology will be entered for selection for publication in the New Zealand Women's Law Journal — Te Aho Kawe Kaupapa Ture a ngā Wāhine ("NZWLJ"). Selection for publication is at the discretion of the NZWLJ co-Editors-in-Chief.

Decision Makers
The 2026 Writing Prize ("Prize") is administered by the AWLA through a selection committee ("Selection Committee"). The Selection Committee will consist of at least three members of the AWLA Committee, including at least one of the President or Vice President of the AWLA.

The Selection Committee may also include a person appointed by the NZWLJ. This may be in the place of an AWLA Committee member or in addition to the three AWLA Committee members.

Requirements and Selection Criteria
The applicant must submit a 3,000-word essay on a topic relating to the intersection of the law and issues of concern to women and/or women and children, which complies with the New Zealand Law Style Guide. The word count is a maximum/limit with a +/- 20% allowance. The essay must be accompanied by a covering letter and a 250-word abstract.

The applicant must also provide a completed application form and signed declaration statement.

In selecting the applicant, the Selection Committee will take into consideration (inter alia) the essay's alignment with the topic.

Suspension or Termination
The Selection Committee may at any time before payment suspend or terminate the payment of the Prize if it determines (in its sole discretion) that the successful candidate has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the Prize was awarded.

Awarding of Prize or entering an entrant for publication in the NZWLJ
The AWLA is under no obligation to award the prize or to enter an entrant for publication in the NZWLJ in the event the Selection Committee does not find any suitable applicant(s).
If applicable, the Prize will be awarded at an AWLA function to be held in December 2026. The successful applicant will be invited to attend this function which will be held in Auckland.

Amendment to Regulations
The Selection Committee may, if it thinks fit, relax or modify the application of any of these regulations in any special circumstances, or in order to avoid substantial hardship to any applicant.

How Do Students Apply?
The application form and relevant information is available for printing from the AWLA website at www.awla.org.nz or by emailing scholarships@awla.nz

Applications must be received by **midnight Friday 27 November 2026.**
The Committee will endeavour to notify the winner of the Prize in the week prior to the event the Prize will be awarded at.