

## **RULES FOR MPA'S STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST**

Any student in a paralegal program in Mississippi is an eligible candidate.

The candidates must be a student in good standing under the standards of the school in which the candidates is currently enrolled. Candidates must complete the registration application and then have it signed by the Program Director or paralegal instructor. The student, Program Director, or instructor should return the application form along with the essay to MPA at the address noted below.

The essay must be no less than two pages and no more than four pages. Essays must be typed double spaced on 8 ½ x 11 paper, using 12 point type. An endnote page is not required. If an endnote page is used, it will not be considered as part of the page count. A cover sheet should be attached stating the candidate's name, address, and school. No name or other means of identification (including reference to school) should appear within this essay, only on the cover page.

The essays will be judged on content, style, grammar, accuracy, relevancy and adherence to the rules regarding format in No. 3 above. The essay must be written in clear, concise English acceptable for publication purposes as the top three essays will be published in the MPA Winter Newsletter. Entrants should consider the national audience which the MPA newsletter reaches.

The postmark deadline for turning in the application is **October 15**. The winner will be announced **by December 15**.

The judges will consist of a panel of three or more individuals selected by the MPA executive Board.

The judges will select three winning essays indicating first, second and third place winners based on criteria contained in these guidelines. The judges' decision is final and not subject to challenge.

The topic of the contest is "**Why I am choosing to become a Paralegal**". Use endnotes and not footnotes if desired.

Applications and essays should be given to the Program Director who will forward them to **Mississippi Paralegal Association, Attention: Student Liaison, P.O. Box 996, Jackson, MS 39205**.

The three winning essays will be announced in December and all winners will receive prizes indicated on the List of Prizes. A list of the 2008 winners can be obtained by calling **Gwen Burgess at 601-856-7200**. Those students placing in the top three will be invited to join us for an awards presentation in early 2009.