The Procurement Lawyers' Association

The Rosie Choueka Memorial Essay Prize 2026 - 2027

The Procurement Lawyers' Association is proud to announce its 12th Annual Essay Competition.

This annual competition has been established in memory of Rosie Choueka, a committed and hard-working member of the PLA's Executive Committee who sadly passed away in 2015 following a valiant fight against breast cancer.

Rosie had a passion for public procurement law which the PLA aims to honour by encouraging young lawyers (students, solicitors and barristers (or national equivalents) up to three (3) years post qualification status) to submit an essay of not less than 2000 words and not more than 3000 words on different public procurement subjects. This year the chosen topic is:

"To what extent can Artificial Intelligence be lawfully used in evaluation of public tenders?"

The essay should be submitted to the PLA by no later than 5pm on Friday 2nd July 2027 via email to Rebecca Rees at Trowers & Hamlins LLP (rrees@trowers.com).

We are pleased to announce that the following prizes will be available for the winning essays:

- £2000 – first prize
- £1000 - second prize
- £500 - third prize

The winner will be invited to present their paper at a future meeting of the Procurement Lawyers' Association and all of the winning essayists will be invited to attend the PLA's Annual Dinner to collect their prizes.

About Rosie Choueka (1976 – 2015)

Rosie was an active and lively member of the Procurement Lawyers' Association. Her commitment to the PLA has helped contribute to its growth and success and she was particularly interested in the advancement and development of public procurement law in the UK – this shone through her work with Duncan Osler in heading up the PLA's Working Groups, with one of the first being the Working Group on Evaluation. Rosie had a first-class intellect, winning the EU law prize at Oxford University, where she also won an Exhibition to Brasenose College, and took a double first in Jurisprudence. She qualified as a solicitor at Linklaters and subsequently became a partner at Lawrence Graham and then Bristows. Rosie wrote a blog about her fight with cancer, which has been much acclaimed and can be read at http://fightinggenghis.wordpress.com. After her passing in June 2015, Rosie's husband Elliot, their family and friends launched Secondary1st. The mission of Secondary1st is to help fund research into the prevention, diagnosis and causes of secondary (metastatic) breast cancer and the development of more effective treatments. More information can be found at www.secondary1st.org.uk/.

Competition Rules

1 The submitted essays should be between 2000 and 3000 words long and should be an original piece of work.

2 Each entry must be accompanied by a front cover sheet stating:

2.1 Essayist's name

2.2 Contact details (including email address)

2.3 Name of place of work/academic institution

2.4 Statement that confirms, "I certify that this essay is no less than 2000 words and no more than 3000 words long (excluding citations whether included in-text or in footnotes), is an original piece of my own work and no part of it is copied directly from any book or other source (eg a website or the output of an Artificial Intelligence tool) unless directly attributed as such within the essay."

3 Essays should be submitted in Arial Font Size 12 in Microsoft Word format and there should be no name or other identifying material on or in the essay itself (apart from on the front cover sheet), so that they can be judged anonymously.

4 Any footnotes will count towards the overall word count.

5 The title of the essay should be on every sheet submitted.

6 Essays should be submitted for the attention of Rebecca Rees at Trowers & Hamlins LLP via email: rrees@trowers.com in accordance with these Rules.

7 The competition is open to individual entrants who are students (including undergraduate, postgraduate and professional studies (law and non-law) students), junior lawyers up to three (3) years post qualification status and their equivalents in any jurisdiction. If you have any queries regarding your eligibility to participate, please contact Rebecca Rees at the contact details set out in Section 6 above.

8 **All entries must be received by 5 pm on Friday 2nd July 2027**.

9 Winners will be notified by the end of September 2027 and by submitting an essay you consent to it being published on the PLA website and agree to present the winning essay at a meeting of members of the PLA.

10 Please note that all administrators and evaluation panel members of this competition are volunteers. We will respond to queries as soon as possible, including requests for evaluation feedback, but your forbearance and courtesy is requested in all correspondence.