

## **ITSA ESSAY COMPETITION 2024**

**Question:** “Is it ever ethically justifiable for a lawyer to breach client confidentiality? Examine the limits of professional ethics in extreme cases.”

**Deadline:** 4pm on Friday 8 November 2024

**Word count:** 2500 words (including references)

### **Rules:**

- a) **Eligibility:** Competition entrants must be Inner Temple Student Members who have not yet attained pupillage or Inner Temple Members of Hall, called to the Bar in the last 5 years, who have not yet attained Pupillage.
- b) **References:** Any referencing style may be used, provided that references are included within the footnotes and not in the body of the text or in endnotes.
- c) **Language:** The essay must be written in English.
- d) **Style:** The essay must be typed and written in a legible font and font size.
- e) **Anonymity:** The author must include their name at the bottom of the essay only. This will be removed during the marking process to ensure that the marking of the essay can meet the BSB’s fair recruitment guide.
- f) **Plagiarism:** Any individual who submits an essay, must submit the following statement within the body of the email their essay is attached to: “I, [INSERT NAME], certify that the attached essay is my own work. Where I have used a source within my essay, I have acknowledged the author of this work in the footnotes. I also confirm that I have not used any form of chatbot or artificial intelligence (AI) to assist with the essay.”

### **Prizes:**

- a) **1<sup>st</sup> place:** £150 cash prize and publication in the Inner Temple Yearbook.
- b) **2<sup>nd</sup> place:** £100 cash prize and publication on ITSA’s website.
- c) **3<sup>rd</sup> place:** £50 amazon vouchers and publication on ITSA’s website.

Any essay with a mark of 85 points or above, including the winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, will be considered as ‘Highly Commended’. These essays will be published on ITSA’s website between the announcement of the winners and the Hilary term.

### **Submission:**

All essays should be submitted as an attachment in **word format** by email to [ITSA@innertemplesocieties.org](mailto:ITSA@innertemplesocieties.org) with the following subject line: ‘ITSA Essay Competition 2024 – [INSERT ENTRANT’S NAME]’.

**Essays received after 4pm on Friday 8th November 2024 will not be considered.**

Please note feedback will not be provided as we do not currently have the capacity to do so.

## Mark scheme

Essays will be marked by Barrister members of Inner Temple. Each essay will be read by a minimum of two judges. Where there is a large discrepancy between the two judges (more than 9 marks), the essay will be read by a 3<sup>rd</sup> member of the judging panel. The essays final score will be the average between the marks awarded by each judge.

Criteria	Exceptional (17-20 marks)	Great (11-16 marks)	Average (6-10 marks)	Below Average (0-5 marks)
<b>Quality of writing (up to 20 marks)</b>	Clear, concise, and persuasive style, good command of written English, no grammatical or spelling errors.	Clear, fairly persuasive style throughout, good command of written English, minor grammatical or spelling errors.	Long winded argument, but eventually gets to the point, room for improvement in terms of grammatical or spelling errors.	Not clear or persuasive, written English needs work, major grammatical or spelling errors throughout.
<b>Structure (up to 20 marks)</b>	Organised in a way that maintains the reader's attention and deals with issues in a logical order, uses the structure to advance their argument making it persuasive and easy to follow.	Clear structure, making it easy to follow their line of argument. Where the writer is conflicted, they weigh up both side of the argument.	Structure is clear but can at times contradict what the writer has said earlier on in the essay making it difficult to know what side they are on (or if they are in the middle not using the structure to assist weighing up both sides).	Very difficult to follow, paragraphs disorganised and referencing not very clear.
Criteria	Exceptional (25-30 marks)	Great (18-24 marks)	Average (10-18)	Below Average (0-9)
<b>Content (up to 30 marks)</b>	Strong understanding of the question and the related legal concepts, stays focused on relevant issues, well-supported by appropriate legal sources, demonstrates the ability to understand and analyse complex legal research and present a view clearly and persuasively.	Clear understanding of the question, uses research to support their argument, acknowledges sources appropriately.	Has not understood the complexity of the argument but does try to tackle at least 1 angle. There has clearly been some level of research to support their argument, but occasionally takes research out of context and has poor referencing.	Does not understand the question asked of them at all, very little research to support their argument and uses irrelevant sources at times. Higher marks can be provided if there has been some research and referencing.
<b>Originality and creativity (up to 30 marks)</b>	Takes a clear view on the subject, include new and complex insights into the topic, it will be thought-provoking and demonstrate original thinking.	Not always clear of the writer's own point of view, but complexity of the argument is supported with evidence, helping the reader to understand why this is a topic of conversation.	Attempts to take a view on the topic, but supporting evidence is very limited and sometimes contradictory, no original line of thinking.	No original line of thinking, individual is not clear on the topic.

See also: <https://www.barcouncilethics.co.uk/documents/fair-recruitment-guide/>