LEGAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ANNUAL WRITING AWARDS FOR 2026

CALL FOR ENTRIES

(closing date: Thursday 25th March 2027)

The Legal Research Foundation awards annual prizes for legal writing. The Foundation is pleased to invite the submission of entries for consideration for the 2026 awards. The awards will be announced at the Foundation's Annual General Meeting in 2027.

JF NORTHEY MEMORIAL BOOK AWARD

This award is given for the best book published in 2026 by a New Zealand-based author (or authors of any number). It carries a prize of $2,000.00. The winner for 2025 was awarded to Associate Professor Hanna Wilberg (Associate Dean (Equity and Diversity) University of Auckland - *Administrative Law in Aotearoa New Zealand*

SIR IAN BARKER PUBLISHED ARTICLE AWARD

This award is given for the best article, essay or discrete book chapter published by a New Zealand-based author in 2026. It carries a prize of $1,500.00. The winner for 2025 was Associate Professor Edward Willis - "A reappraisal of deference to expert regulators in light of the end of the Chevron doctrine"

UNPUBLISHED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

This is open to unpublished undergraduate student papers between a minimum of 10,000 and a maximum of 18,000 words. The paper must have been written for course credit at a New Zealand university. The writing of the paper must have been completed by the end of 2026. However, a paper completed during the summer period over 2026-2027 is also eligible provided the paper is submitted to your university by the closing date of 25th March 2027. The award carries a prize of $1,000.00. The winner for 2025 was Amy Lim - "Between Safety and whanaungatanga: Contemporary Evaluation of the role and effectiveness of supervised contact in supporting New Zealand families."

UNPUBLISHED POST GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

This is open to unpublished postgraduate student papers between a minimum of 8,000 and a maximum of 18,000 words. For Masters students, the paper must have been written in 2026 as part of the course requirements for a post-graduate degree at a New Zealand university. For PhD students there is no requirement that the paper must be written as part of the course requirements for the degree (the PhD student must be enrolled at a New Zealand university). The award carries a prize of $1,000.00. The winning papers in 2025 were Claire Graham, Victoria University of Wellington - "Rethinking Intention: A Feminist Dismantling of the Familial Presumption in Contract Law" and joint winner Joshua Kennedy, University of Auckland - "An Empirical Analysis of Statutory Demand Procedure Abuse in New Zealand: Evidence from applications to Set Aside".

HOW TO ENTER

Entries for the **Sir Ian Barker Published Article Award** and the **Unpublished Post Graduate Student Paper Awards** must be emailed in word and PDF form to julia@legalresearch.org.nz by Thursday 25th March 2027 or submitted online at www.legalresearch.org.nz.

Entries for the Unpublished Undergraduate Student Paper Award must be submitted by the university. Only the top five papers from each university will be accepted.

Entries for the JF Northey Memorial Book Award should be posted to: (please email julia@legalresearch.org.nz to confirm the courier of the book)

Writing Awards
LEGAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
University of Auckland Law School
9 Eden Crescent, Auckland 1010

Entries received after 25th March 2027 will not be eligible for the Awards. Please include **full** contact details with each entry. When a shortlist for the JF Northey Book Award has been decided upon, authors will be requested to provide two additional copies of their entry. We will return all books after the AGM.

The Foundation will contact winners of awards around August 2027. Please also note only one entry per author in each category of award will be considered. For the full rules and submission procedures please refer to www.legalresearch.org.nz.