



**Fountain Court**

# **THE CHRISTOPHER BATHURST PRIZE 2026**

<b>Guidance Note</b>	.....	<b>i - ii</b>
<b>Question</b>	.....	<b>1</b>

# **GUIDANCE NOTE FOR SUBMISSION**

## **About the Prize**

1. The Christopher Bathurst Prize is an esteemed annual essay writing competition that has been held since 2009, named in honor of the late Mr Christopher Bathurst QC (Viscount Bledisloe). Mr Christopher Bathurst was a distinguished member of Fountain Court Chambers and a prominent figure in the legal community, having spent many years practicing in Singapore. The prize, presented in collaboration between the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) and Fountain Court Chambers (FCC), continues his legacy by offering a platform for young legal minds to showcase their talents.
2. The Christopher Bathurst Prize will be awarded to the contributor of the best written legal advice on the chosen topic. The winner will have the benefit of an all-expense-paid two-week internship with Fountain Court Chambers in London.
3. Expenses covered include: Return (economy) airfare; accommodation in a self-contained flat or studio apartment; and a per diem allowance to cover reasonable living and work travel expenses in London.
4. The internship will take place within one year of the announcement of the winner, on dates to be agreed mutually between Fountain Court Chambers and the winner.

## **Eligibility**

5. The Competition is open to:
  - (a) every Full-time student enrolled in the LL.B. or LL.M. or JD or PhD programme at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law;
  - (b) every Full-time student enrolled in the LL.B. or JD programme at the Singapore Management University School of Law;
  - (c) every Full-time student enrolled in the LL.B. or JD programme at the Singapore University of Social Sciences Faculty of Law; and
  - (d) every Qualified Person under the Legal Profession Act who is aged 30 years or younger, as of 1 January 2026.
6. Persons related to SAL (full-time & part-time staff and members of the Senate) and Fountain Court (all barristers & support staff) are not eligible.
7. Please note that only one entry per person is allowed.

## **Judging Panel**

8. The Judging Panel will comprise members appointed by Fountain Court and SAL. All decisions of the Judging Panel and incidental decisions thereto, are final, and no correspondence will be entertained.

## **Judging Criteria**

9. Entries will be judged on the following criteria (in no particular order): originality; critical analysis; succinctness; clarity; persuasiveness (where arguments are made) and pragmatism (in the case of suggestions or proposals).

# GUIDANCE NOTE FOR SUBMISSION

## How to Participate

10. **Entry format:** Entries are to be written in English. Entries should not exceed 3,500 words, including references, footnotes, charts, tables, diagrams, and appendices. Entries must be submitted in Word format and double-spaced. Compliance with the style guide for the Singapore Law Reports is recommended but not required.

11. **Cover sheet:** Entries must be prefaced with a separate cover sheet (legal advice and cover sheet are to be attached to the e-mail as separate documents) with the following information on the cover page:

- (a) Full Name
- (b) Last 3 digits + alphabet of your NRIC or passport number (e.g. 123A)
- (c) Institution (university or employer)
- (d) E-mail address
- (e) Mobile number
- (f) Total word count (including references, footnotes, charts, tables, diagrams, and appendices)

12. **Copyright assignment:** The following sentence is to be added at the end of the legal advice: "The author agrees to assign copyright of the work to Fountain Court Chambers and the Singapore Academy of Law, which shall hold the copyright jointly."

13. Please indicate the last 3 digits + alphabet of your NRIC or passport number (e.g. 123A) in the header of every page of the legal advice. Do not indicate any other information which may identify the author.

14. Submission period: 7 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.

15. The essay must be received by SAL at [awards@sal.org.sg](mailto:awards@sal.org.sg) no later than 4.30 PM SGT on 30 June 2026. The judging panel reserves the right to reject entries that are incomplete or do not comply with the instructions.

## Notification of result

16. All entrants are invited to a reception hosted by Fountain Court Chambers on 4 September 2026, where the winner of the Prize will be announced.

# THE CHRISTOPHER BATHURST PRIZE 2026 QUESTION

In *DRL v DRK* [2026] SGHC 32, the Singapore High Court upheld the termination of arbitral proceedings on the basis that sanctions imposed on the claimant rendered the arbitration impossible to continue. Meanwhile, in the EU, Advocate General Biondi has opined that Article 11 of Regulation 833/2014 (the EU's Russia sanctions regulation) prevents arbitral tribunals from granting relief on sanctions-affected claims.

Against this backdrop, and in light of the proliferation of unilateral and multilateral sanctions regimes, to what extent should (a) sanctions imposed by international bodies or foreign nations and (b) domestic sanctions be treated in Singapore as being capable of affecting the validity or enforcement of international commercial arbitration (i) agreements and (ii) awards?

Deadline for submission: 4.30 PM SGT, 30 June 2026