The Federal Bar Association Section on Taxation sponsors an annual writing competition and invites law students to participate. The Section on Taxation has recently named the annual competition the Donald C. Alexander Tax Law Writing Competition in honor of former IRS Commissioner (1973-1977) Don Alexander, who passed away in 2009. Mr. Alexander was a widely admired role model and advocate for writing skills and style in the area of tax law throughout his career. 

Please share this opportunity with students who may be interested in participating.

All full-time and part-time law students currently seeking a juris doctor (J.D.) or a master of laws (LL.M.) at an accredited law school are eligible to enter the competition. Students may submit any original paper concerning federal taxation. Papers written in connection with a law school course, seminar, or paid employment are eligible provided that they are written in the form of a scholarly article and do not contain any client-specific work product. Student papers submitted for publication in law reviews or other legal journals are eligible for the competition. However, student papers that have already been published in a law review or other legal journal, or that have been selected for publication, are not eligible for the competition. Students must sign the attached Warranty and Authorization to Publish guaranteeing that the paper has not been published or selected for publication as of the date the paper is submitted to this competition and agreeing to permit the Section on Taxation to publish the paper. Student papers submitted to other competitions are eligible for the Donald C. Alexander Tax Law Writing Competition. Papers must be a minimum of twenty pages and a maximum of fifty pages (double spaced, twelve-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins) including endnotes (which may be single-spaced).

Papers will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (1) depth of research; (2) originality of thought; (3) quality, clarity, and efficiency of presentation; and (4) relevance to current tax policy or events. Additionally, each student must sign and return the attached warranty (a .pdf copy by e-mail is acceptable).

Submissions must be postmarked or e-mailed by January 5, 2015. If mailing submissions, please use the following address:

Federal Bar Association Section on Taxation
Attn: Donald C. Alexander Tax Law Writing Competition
1220 N. Fillmore Street, Suite 444
Arlington, VA  22201

If e-mailing submissions, please e-mail to Marcellus Howard at mhoward@fedbar.org, with the subject line “Donald C. Alexander Tax Law Writing Competition.”

Two winning papers will be selected by the Officers of the Federal Bar Association Section on Taxation. The authors of the first place and second place papers will receive:

(i) A cash prize ($2,000 for first place and $1,000 for second place); and
(ii) A trip to the FBA’s Annual Tax Law Conference in Washington, DC, on March 6, 2015
(value not to exceed $700), where each winner will be presented with a Commemorative
Plaque and complimentary one-year membership in the Federal Bar Association Section
on Taxation.

Both the first place and second place papers may be published in the Report, the newsletter of the
Section and/or The Federal Lawyer, the magazine of the Federal Bar Association. To be eligible for
publication in The Federal Lawyer, the paper must be on a topic that is of general interest to the Federal Bar
Association membership.

Sincerely,

Anne Gordron       Robert Russell
Warranty and Authorization to Publish

The undersigned hereby submits the attached paper entitled ____________________________ for consideration in the Donald C. Alexander Tax Law Writing Competition, sponsored by the Federal Bar Association Section on Taxation (“FBA Section on Taxation”). The undersigned warrants that the paper is the author’s original work except for properly attributed excerpts and that the paper has not been published or selected for publication in a law review or other legal journal as of the date the paper is submitted to this competition.

In the event that it is selected as the winning paper in the Donald C. Alexander Tax Law Writing Competition, the FBA Section on Taxation may publish the paper: (i) in The Federal Lawyer, the magazine of the Federal Bar Association; (ii) in The Report, the newsletter of the Section; (iii) on the Section’s website; and (iv) through re-prints of The Federal Lawyer and The Report. The author warrants that, as of the date of submission to the competition, publication of the paper by the Federal Bar Association will not infringe upon any copyright, trademark, patent, proprietary, or statutory right of others. The author agrees to notify the FBA Section on Taxation if the paper is selected for publication in another publication prior to publication by the Federal Bar Association. The author agrees to indemnify the FBA Section on Taxation against all damages and/or expenses resulting from a breach of this warranty.

________________________________________  __________________________________________
Signature                                               Street Address

________________________________________  __________________________________________
Print Name                                               City, State, and Zip Code

________________________________________  __________________________________________
Date                                                   E-mail

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Law School                                             Phone Number