INTERLEGES AWARD 2015
in memory of Stephen Rayner

Now in its tenth successive year, the Interleges network is proud to announce the Interleges Award 2015:

TOPIC – TRANSNATIONAL ADJUDICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS: NATIONAL TRIBUNALS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INTERNATIONAL COURTS

The essay should address one of the following sets of issues:

1. Can and do national courts provide different or increased remedies to victims of human rights violations as compared to international courts? Are national courts available to enforce the decisions of international courts and how effective are such efforts? Include an evaluation of the reported effectiveness of national courts in providing remedies for such victims, and suggest improvements.

2. Compare the recent trends in courts of such countries as the United States to reduce the availability of their courts for international human rights violations with the trends in the courts of such countries as Spain and Italy to provide an effective forum for such matters. Include an analysis of what role if any differences between the common law and civil law systems affect both the availability of national forums and remedies, and the willingness of the various national judiciaries to undertake a generous reception of international human rights claims.

3. Examine the right of access of alleged victims of human rights violations to the national courts of various countries where defendants have financial resources that might be applied to judgment rendered in favor of such claimants. To what extent do national courts enforce the judgments of other countries in favor of human rights victims? To what extent if any do the doctrines of comity vary between common law and civil law jurisdictions in their reception of foreign judgments in favor of human rights victims?

Word limit 8,000 words, in English (not including footnotes)

Deadline Friday 20 March 2015

Prize money €4,000.00

The winner will also be invited to attend part of the Interleges Annual General Meeting 2015 to receive the award, which takes place in New York 14 – 17 May 2015.
SPECIFICATIONS

1. The following applicants are not eligible to compete for the Interleges Award:

- Any applicant who is registered as a lawyer, advocate, attorney, judge or notary in a jurisdiction, where traineeship is required prior to commencing practice in that capacity

- Any applicant who has been registered for more than two years as a lawyer, advocate, attorney, judge or notary in a jurisdiction where traineeship is not required prior to commencing practice in that capacity

- Applicants on the academic staff of any university, law school or relevant lawyers association or bar

- The holder of a PhD (or degree considered by the Interleges Executive Committee to be an equivalent) in a subject directly relevant to the topic of the Award

- Persons engaged, whether as trainees or otherwise, at any time after 1 January 2011 in any member firm of Interleges or in any firm that is an approved correspondent of Interleges, or in any company or organisation where one of the judges or advisers to the competition works

- Relatives of the judges and advisers to the competition

The decision of the Interleges Executive Committee shall be final as to the eligibility of any applicant.

2. The essay must be written in English, and shall not exceed 8,000 words. This word limit does not include footnotes.
3. The winning essay will be chosen by a panel of judges nominated by the Interleges Executive Committee. The judges’ decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. The judges shall have the discretion not to give the award if the essays submitted are of insufficient quality or to make a joint award in the event that they are of the opinion that two or more of the essays submitted are of equal merit, The jury shall be entitled to conduct interviews with applicants either directly or through the Interleges member firm located nearest the applicant. In the event that the judges are divided with an equal number of votes in favour of and against giving the award, the Interleges President shall have a casting vote.

4. The essay should arrive at the following address on or before Friday 20 March 2015: Interleges c/o John North, Royds LLP, 65, Carter Lane, London EC4V 5HF UK

A copy must also be sent by e-mail to interlegesadmin@googlemail.com

5. The essay must be signed and shall contain the following signed statement:

“The applicant certifies that this essay is an original piece of scholarly work. The applicant has properly cited all sources and quotations. The applicant grants any and all copyright attached to his or her essay to Interleges and acknowledges that Interleges is authorised to publish this essay and/or make any use thereof at its entire discretion”.

6. The applicant shall provide written evidence of his or her eligibility to participate in the competition (status of student or trainee etc.). The applicant shall also attach a copy of his or her passport and full contact details, including a telephone number and an e-mail address, as well as a short introduction to themselves, where they are studying/training etc.

7. Prize money shall be: € 4,000.00
8. The winner of the contest shall be invited to part of the Interleges Annual General Meeting in New York (14 – 17 May 2015) to receive the award, and shall be reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses to and from New York. Interleges shall also bear the cost of the winner’s accommodation at the hotel hosting the AGM.

9. The winner of the award shall be notified by Friday 1 May 2015.