Two Students Win National Legal Writing Awards

Two UW Law School students graduating this May have received national recognition for their legal writing abilities.

William E. Rosales is the winner of the ABA's Antitrust Law Writing Competition.

William E. Rosales has been chosen the first-place winner in the seventh annual writing competition held by the American Bar Association's Antitrust Law Section.

Rosales's winning paper, "Dethroning Economic Kings: The Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 and Its Modern Awakening," examines the hesitation of federal courts to apply the 1921 Act to address the consolidation of the meat-packing industry. His interest in the topic began with his work as a Congressional Hunger Fellow before coming to law school.

Rosales also credits UW Law Professor Peter Carstensen with fueling his interest in the 1921 Act. Carstensen challenged Rosales to think about the problems plaguing the meat industries. “It is a rare opportunity when a student gets to be mentored by his small-group professor over his entire law school career,” Rosales says.

Rosales received a cash prize and a trip to the Antitrust Section's annual spring meeting in Washington, D.C., where the award was presented to him formally. Rosales is the Senior Note and Comment Editor of the Wisconsin Law Review, and plans to pursue a career in litigation and trial advocacy.

Brian T. Larson has been awarded the 2005 International Law Student Association Deak Prize. Larson's comment, "Meaningful Technical Assistance in the WTO," was published in the Wisconsin Law Review in 2003 (2003 Wis. L. Rev. 1163). Larson looked at the World Trade Organization's division of "developed" versus "developing" countries by way of an analogy to the "haves" and "have-nots" in U.S. litigation. He concluded that there was not an effective "meeting of the minds" at the Doha Trade round in 2001 when the programs were revamped, and that this may help explain why WTO talks have broken down during more recent gatherings.

When Larson was a first-year law student he began working for UW Law Professor Gregory Shaffer as a research assistant, and began forming the idea for his comment's topic from a footnote to an article Professor Shaffer was drafting.

Larson traveled to Geneva, Switzerland and Vietnam on grants obtained through the Law School's East Asian Legal Studies Center to conduct interviews and research for his comment.

Shaffer said the recognition of Larson's comment is a testament to the Law In Action approach to legal education conducted at the Law School, and to the opportunities students have to conduct serious research through competitive grant programs. “I am proud to be indirectly involved in the important work Brian has accomplished,” he says.

Larson will graduate in May with both a J.D. from the Law School and a Master of Public Affairs (M.P.A.) degree from the university’s La Follette School of Public Affairs. He will join the Madison law firm of Stroud, Willink & Howard as an associate.

“Professor Shaffer encouraged me at so many different stages to set my goals high, and to write a paper that would really make a difference,” Larson comments. “I am proud that my research has entered the dialogue of issues that will affect reform in the WTO.”