



Dear Students,

This year Vermont Law School (VLS) is hosting the ILSA Fall Conference on the topic of genocide. VLS is very excited about this opportunity to gather advocates, educators, and students together to discuss important issues surrounding this grave crime. As part of the conference, VLS is holding a student writing competition. The authors of the best three papers will be asked to present their work as a panel at the conference on October 3, 2008.

The topic for the writing competition is **“Redefining Genocide: How Can the Genocide Convention be Modernized to Comport with Emerging Norms?”** Each participant will be required to write a 15 page paper with endnotes. Papers will be reviewed by a panel of judges consisting of two students, two law professors, and one person who works in the international criminal justice field. Content, grammar, style, and citation will all be taken into account during the review process. The winners will be notified by September 19, 2008 and will be asked to deliver a 15-minute presentation based on their paper at the conference. Finalists should also be prepared to answer questions about their work from the audience. Based on these presentations, the judges will determine the first place paper, which will be recognized and awarded at the conference dinner and published in the *ILSA Quarterly* student magazine. There may also be a publication opportunity for the winning paper in the Vermont Law Review. The other finalists will also receive prizes at the conference dinner.

All participants in the writing contest must adhere to the following important deadlines:

Friday, August 8, 2008 – Student Proposals Due by 5:00 pm

Monday, September 1, 2008 – Papers due by 5:00 pm

Friday, September 19, 2008 – Three finalists announced

Monday, September 29, 2008 – Three finalists submit presentation documents by 5:00 pm

Friday, October 3, 2008 – Presentations by three finalists 4:15 to 6:00

If you are interested in participating, please submit a **contest proposal** – a one page memo declaring your intent to participate and a brief summary of your thesis. Please email your contest proposals to sbalmes@vermontlaw.edu or mail contest proposals to:

Vermont Law School
ILS Student Writing Competition
c/o Samantha C. Balmes
PO BOX 96, Chelsea Street
South Royalton, VT 05068

Sincerely,
Samantha C. Balmes
Fall Conference Co-chair