



**FUTURE THOUGHT LEADERS**

page by page towards tomorrow

# Essay Competition



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# OUR STORY

ThoughtLeaders4 are serious about providing opportunities to up-and-coming practitioners specialising in Competition. We strongly believe that the next generation of practitioners should be writing, speaking at and attending events in order to build their network and further their careers.

With this in mind, we are proud to present the inaugural **Competition Next Gen Future Thought Leaders Essay Competition**. Assessed by an illustriously experienced, senior and broad-ranging panel of practitioners this is your chance to stick your head above the parapet and mark yourself as the one-to-watch. With the opportunity to attend and discuss your essay at our **The Competition Next Gen Summit 2025**, we look forward to your submissions and to welcoming you to the Competition community.

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# THE BRIEF

**The DMA and DMCC have introduced ex ante regulatory frameworks for some technology businesses which are intended to complement and supplement competition law. How will this legislation impact private enforcement and interact with and impact upon public enforcement of conduct in the digital world?**

In the run-up to The Competition Next Gen Summit 2025 conference on 12-14 February in Dublin, we invite submissions from next gen practitioners on this topical debate.

We encourage you to set out your personal views and thoughts on the current law and its potential future direction and to draw on your own or your colleagues' experiences.

We also invite you to be creative, well-researched, opinionated, and take a position on this timely issue, affecting the next generation of divorce practitioners.

# PRIZES

AMAZING OPORTUNITIES FOR THE RISING STARS



## WINNER

- Winner of the competition will have the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion at **The Competition Next Gen Summit 2025**, taking place in Dublin, on 12-14 February 2024.
- Winner of the competition will receive a yearly pass for ThoughtLeaders4 Competition Conferences.
- Winner of the competition will receive a branded hamper.



## TOP 3

- Top 3 entrants as chosen by the judging panel will win a free ticket to **The Competition Next Gen Summit 2025**.
- Top 3 entrants will receive a branded hamper.



## ALL ENTRANTS

- All entrants will have their essays published in a special edition of the Competition Magazine. This will be published digitally, along with a print run at **The Competition Next Gen Summit 2025**.

## ENTRANTS ELIGIBILITY




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**Must be a Competition Next Gen (up to 12 years qualified)**

# JUDGING PANEL



**NICOLE KAR**  
PARTNER  
**PAUL WEISS**

Nicole Kar is global co-chair of the Antitrust Practice. She advises on global merger investigations from an antitrust and foreign investment standpoint and has led over 40 significant merger reviews before the UK and European authorities; as well as advising on cartel, abuse of dominance and consumer law investigations and consequential litigation, particularly in the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal; compliance issues; and self-reporting to financial and other regulators.



**ELAINE WHITEFORD**  
PARTNER, ANTITRUST & COMPETITION  
**WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER**

Elaine Whiteford has over 20 years' experience of contentious EU, Competition and Regulatory work, specialising in follow-on damages litigation, challenges to regulatory decisions, cartel investigations and threatened disputes. Elaine also has extensive experience in relation to regulatory investigations conducted by the European Commission and other competition regulators.



**JOHN MESSENT**  
COUNSEL  
**CLEARY GOTTlieb**

John Messent's practice covers all aspects of UK and EU competition law, as well as rules on national security and investment screening. He has represented clients before the European Commission, the Competition and Markets Authority, and UK sectoral regulators, as well as before the EU and UK Courts. John was seconded in 2013 to the Policy department of the Office of Fair Trading, working on guidance documents to be published by the new Competition and Markets Authority (including on mergers, Competition Act investigations, and criminal cartel prosecutions). He became counsel in 2024.



**ANDREW LEITCH**  
PARTNER  
**BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER**

Andrew has significant experience in competition litigation, having acted for both claimants and defendants in disputes arising out of price fixing cartels, in addition to advising on litigation concerning abuse of dominant positions in marketplaces. Andrew has experience of litigating disputes in various courts in the U.K., including the High Court of Justice, the Competition Appeal Tribunal and the Court of Appeal. He has advised clients in a range of regulated and non-regulated industry sectors, including industrial manufacturers, financial institutions and technology companies.



**STEPHEN WISKING**  
PARTNER  
**HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS**

Stephen has over 20 years' experience and has been involved in a significant number of landmark competition and regulatory cases at EU and UK level. He specialises in all aspects of EU and UK competition law, including merger control, cartels and abuse of dominance cases, market investigations, competition disputes and strategic advice. Stephen advises clients across a broad range of sectors including financial services, media (particularly broadcasting), telecoms, energy, pharmaceuticals and professional services.

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# FORMAT GUIDELINES

**LENGTH:** 1800 words (+/- 10% allowance);

**FONT FORMAT:** Times New Roman/Arial, 12-point;

**SPACING:** 1.5 line spacing;

**ALIGNMENT:** Lined up evenly at the left margin;

**DOCUMENT FORMAT:** Must be a Word Document;

**OTHER:** Adherence to a well-known style guide or academic referencing system such as OSCALA, preference is for footnotes as opposed to endnotes, no use of chat bots.

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# TIMELINE



**6 December 2024**

Submission deadline



**13 January 2025**

Top 3 essays & winner are announced



**12-14 February 2025**

Winner discusses essay at The Competition Next Gen Summit 2025 in Dublin

# MARKING CRITERIA

## Argument:

- 1) Originality of thought and a clear position in relation to the question;
- 2) Provision of compelling and thorough examples to support each main point in the argument;
- 3) Persuasive argument which could be tailored / cut down and presented at the summit.

## Flow:

- 4) Coherence and cohesion throughout the essay;
- 5) Develops ideas cogently, organises them logically, and connects them with clear transitions.

## Style:

- 6) Demonstrates a superior grasp on the conventions of academic / standard written English, (i.e. grammar usage and mechanics) though may have some minor errors;
- 7) Uses elegant vocabulary yet is clear, concise and accessible to the interdisciplinary audience;
- 8) Syntax is sophisticated and varied.

# HOW TO SUBMIT

## IN 3 EASY STEPS

- 1 Go to our [website](#);
- 2 Fill in the form with your details;
- 3 Attach your essay as a Word Document and submit it.



## **DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?**

ANY SUBMISSION ISSUES?

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT TL4?

**Contact:** [maximus@thoughtleaders4.com](mailto:maximus@thoughtleaders4.com)