



FUTURE THOUGHT LEADERS

page by page towards tomorrow

Essay Competition



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OUR STORY

We at ThoughtLeaders4 are serious about providing opportunities to up-and-coming practitioners specialising in Asset Recovery, Fraud, Insolvency and Enforcement. 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 **3rd Edition** of our **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 speak at the FIRE Starters Global Summit: Dublin** as well as **attend the FIRE International: Vilamoura event in Portugal**, we look forward to your submissions and to welcoming you to the FIRE Starters community.

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THE BRIEF

Essay Title: Can the FIRE practitioner be replaced by artificial intelligence (AI): Your opinion on how AI could shape the future of law.

In an era characterized by rapid technological advancements, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into various industries has sparked debates about its potential to reshape traditional professions. One such field is law, where AI's capabilities have raised questions about the role of practitioners in the future.

This essay competition encourages participants to delve into the fascinating relationship between artificial intelligence and the legal field, specifically within the domains of FIRE (fraud, insolvency, asset recovery and enforcement). Participants are encouraged to consider the multifaceted implications of AI integration while envisioning a future legal landscape that embraces technology while upholding the core values of the justice system.

PRIZES

AMAZING OPORTUNITIES FOR THE RISING STARS



WINNER

- Winner of the competition will have the opportunity to present their essay at the **FIRE Starters Global Summit** taking place in Dublin, on the 21st – 23rd February 2024.

- Winner of the competition will win a free ticket to **FIRE International: Vilamoura** taking place in Portugal, on the 15th - 17th May 2024.



TOP 3

- Top 3 entrants as chosen by the judging panel will win free tickets to attend the **FIRE Starters Global Summit** taking place in Dublin on the 21st – 23rd February 2024.

- The first runner-up will also win a free ticket to the **FIRE International: Vilamoura** taking place in Portugal on the 15th - 17th May 2024.



ALL ENTRANTS

- All entrants will have their essays published in the FIRE Magazine. This will be published digitally prior to **FIRE Starters Global Summit 2024**, along with a print run at the event.

ENTRANTS ELIGIBILITY



Must be a FIRE Starter (2-15 years qualified)

JUDGING PANEL



JANE COLSTON
PARTNER
BROWN RUDNICK

Jane Colston is co-practice group leader of the Firm's Litigation & Arbitration Practice Group in London. Her practice focuses on complex and high-value commercial banking, contract and tort disputes as well as company, shareholders and partnership disputes.



ANDY MCGREGOR
PARTNER
ALLEN & OVERY

Andy specialises in civil fraud and finance litigation. He has almost two decades of experience handling complex, high value international disputes with particular experience representing banks and other financial institutions, corporates and high-net-worth individuals.



LEYZA FLORIN BLANCO
SHAREHOLDER
SEQUOR LAW

Leyza Florin Blanco, a shareholder at Sequor Law, focuses her practice on a wide range of litigation and insolvency matters, including debt restructuring and representation of creditors, with special emphasis on complex business bankruptcy and commercial litigation matters.



TOM WEISSELBERG KC
BARRISTER
BLACKSTONE CHAMBERS

Tom is co-Head of Blackstone Chambers and has extensive litigation and advocacy experience. He has appeared in the Supreme Court, House of Lords, Privy Council, Court of Appeal, High Court and County Courts. He has also appeared in a wide range of domestic tribunals (including the Copyright Tribunal, the Takeover Panel, the Upper Tribunal (Tax and Chancery Chamber) and the Lloyd's Appeal Tribunal).



SUE THACKERAY
PARTNER
KINGSLEY NAPLEY

Sue has over 20 years' experience in all aspects of commercial litigation for claimants and defendants. Sue is Listed in Who's Who Legal Investigation Guide 2023 as Recommended Leaders in Their Field. She is also listed as a Global Elite Thought Leader in the Who's Who Legal: Asset Recovery Global Guide 2022 and listed as a Thought Leader in the Who's Who Legal: GIR - Asset Recovery 2022 Guide.



JONATHAN TICKNER
PARTNER AND HEAD OF
FRAUD AND COMMERCIAL DISPUTES
PETERS & PETERS

Jonathan is Peters & Peters' Head of Commercial Litigation and Civil Fraud. Jonathan trained at the firm and has been a partner since 2002. He specialises in large complex international and commercial disputes, civil fraud, and asset recovery with ground-breaking experience in multi-jurisdictional emergency procedures. Jonathan also has extensive experience in large-scale competition follow-on damages claims, having acted for the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care for over 20 years in a significant number of large-scale damages, fraud, and cartel claims.



DANNY ONG
MANAGING DIRECTOR
SETIA LAW

Described by clients as a "formidable force", "our go-to-guy" and "good when you need someone to fight your caner", Danny brings a wealth of experience, commercial acumen and strategic wisdom to his specialist areas of complex international commercial and financial disputes and investigations, as well as cross-border restructuring and insolvency.



ADDY SCHMITT
MANAGING PARTNER
**HARRIS ST LAURENT
WECHSLER**

Addy Schmitt is the Managing Partner of the Firm's D.C. office. Ms. Schmitt has been litigating complex criminal and civil cases for twenty years. She represents corporations, organizations and individuals in criminal investigations and prosecutions, regulatory and enforcement matters, commercial litigation, and internal investigations. Her experience ranges from defending clients against public corruption charges and False Claims Act violations to partnership disputes, employment discrimination and retaliation cases.



BLAIR LEAHY KC
BARRISTER
TWENTY ESSEX

Blair has a broad commercial practice with an emphasis on complex multi-jurisdictional fraud claims and disputes with technical insolvency or company law aspects. She is ranked across all her main practice areas in the latest editions of Chambers UK Bar and The Legal 500, and prior to taking silk, won Insolvency Junior of the Year at The Legal 500 UK Bar Awards 2019. She is described in the directories as "all-round excellent" and receives particular praise for her court room skills ("her advocacy is on another level") and "amazingly good judgment".

5 | **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.

6 | **TIMELINE**



24th November 2023
Submission deadline



15th January 2024
Top 3 essays & winner are announced



23rd February 2024
Winner presents the essay at FIRE Starters 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 maddi@thoughtleaders4.com

**A MESSAGE FROM
PREVIOUS YEARS' WINNERS...**



Joseph Rome
Attorney
Sequor Law



“

The competition was a great experience. Not only did I get the opportunity to discuss issues that I am passionate about, but I was able to connect with numerous other anti-fraud practitioners in both Dublin and Portugal and learn about their incredible experiences and expertise.

”



Caitlin Bruce
Associate Dispute Resolution
Collas Crill



“

This is an amazing opportunity to dust off the old essay writing skills and get your name out there in a way that is very rare for junior lawyers. The TL4 team were absolutely incredible in boosting my online profile which has allowed me to make lasting connections in a new jurisdiction very quickly.

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