



THE  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
LAW SOCIETY

Kevin De Silva  
Memorial  
Essay Competition  
2022

### ESSAY SUBJECT

**The impact of Covid-19 has (finally) pushed legal services into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in terms of use of technology. Discuss**

The winning essay will be a well-presented, original, and engaging piece of work, addressing the essay subject which justifies its reasoning and uses the law intelligently to support its conclusions.

### FINAL JUDGING PANEL

The final judging panel is proposed in 2022 to be the Head of the Law Departments, or a senior academic for either or both universities. The final judging panel will be confirmed shortly.

### PRIZE

**The Kevin De Silva Shield and a cash prize of £250**

**Two Runners Up prizes of £75.00 may also be awarded, in the discretion of the Judging Panel.**

The winner will be announced on a date to be confirmed in April, this will be via ZOOM and will have the final judging panel present, giving their summary of the essay competition.

The trophy will be presented at the Nottinghamshire Law Society AGM, which will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### RULES

1. The competition is open to solicitors and barristers within 5 years of admission/call, trainee solicitors, solicitor apprenticeships, pupil barristers, students (including LPC, SQE and Bar training course) and paralegals (with up to 5 years' experience) that work and/or study in Nottinghamshire. (Name & institution/place of employment must be clearly stated on entry form)
2. Any doubt as to eligibility should be raised with the Competition Organisers prior to submission of an entry.
3. The entrants name, address, stage reached in their education/training & their educational institution or place of training must be clearly stated on the entry form.

4. Each entry shall be limited to no more than 2500 words. The number of words must be stated at the end of the entry.
5. The essay must be an original piece of work, created by the person submitting the essay.
6. The layout of every entry shall comply with the guidance set by the Nottingham Law Journal, which can be found here: [https://www.ntu.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0027/1475190/Nottingham-Law-Journal-Editorial-Policy-and-House-Style.pdf](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/1475190/Nottingham-Law-Journal-Editorial-Policy-and-House-Style.pdf)
7. All entries shall become the property of Nottinghamshire Law Society, who shall be entitled to publish or reproduce all or part of the essay/s as and when they see fit.
8. Entries will not be returned.
9. The Competition Organisers bear no responsibility for the safekeeping of the entries.
10. All entries should be submitted in WORD form via email attachment (as set out above) for the of the attention of the Society's Head of Operations, **Michelle Foster** – [michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org](mailto:michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org)
11. Entries must be received, in accordance with the Competition Rules, no later than **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 5:00pm**, which is the closing date for the competition.
12. Any issue as to the application of the Competition Rules shall be determined by the Competition Organisers in accordance with these rules but otherwise in their absolute discretion and shall be final. No right of appeal arises from a decision made.

# KEVIN DE SILVA ESSAY PRIZE 2022

## MARKING CRITERIA

### ESSAY SUBJECT

The impact of Covid-19 has (finally) pushed legal services into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in terms of use of technology. Discuss

The overall marking will be out of 100, with five criteria, each scoring a maximum of 20 points. The mark of 10 points will be classed as 'average' within the category.

The **five criteria** are as follows:

1. **Structure** /20 points

*Use of language, punctuation, rhetoric and grammar.*

Poor grammar, spelling, punctuation etc, would justify a mark below the average (minus factors). Good use of language and rhetoric would lift an entry above the average (plus factors).

2. **Engagement** /20 points

*Connection between the essay and the set subject.*

Does the essay engage with the problem clearly and seek to provide a coherent answer to the question (plus factors)? Alternatively, is it overly discursive and lacking in clarity of conclusion (minus factors)?

3. **Law** /20 points

*Application of principle and support from appropriate sources.*

Does the essay justify its reasoning by insightful use of principle, drawn from appropriate and credible sources?

Are its conclusions demonstrated to be justifiable and supported by the evidence used?

Alternatively, is there a failure to consider relevant aspects of the content, or mistakes in the application of principle to the problem (minus factors)?

4. **Reasoning & Conclusion** /20 points

*Clarity and decisiveness in the conclusion expressed and the reasoning which underpins it.*

Insight into the problem, persuasive reasoning and a logical progression to a clear conclusion would all be factors to be considered here and would be positives.

5. **Star Quality** /20 points

In terms of overall appraisal, is there something that marks the essay out and makes it stand forward from others?

# KEVIN DE SILVA ESSAY COMPETITION 2022

## ENTRY FORM

This competition is open to solicitors & barristers within 5 years of admission/call, trainee solicitors, solicitor apprentices, pupil barristers, students (including LPC, SQE and Bar training course) and paralegals (with up to 5 years' experience) that work and/or study in Nottinghamshire. You must fall into one of these eligible categories at the closing date. If you are unsure as to whether you are eligible to enter, please contact the Competition Organisers

To enter the Kevin De Silva Essay Competition 2022, please complete and submit this form together with your written essay (no more than 2500 words) by **5pm on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022** to:

Head of Operations, Michelle Foster [michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org](mailto:michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org)

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Firm/Institution:</b>	
<b>Job Title / level of</b>	<b>Qualification (or, if student, whether undertaking LPC, SQE or Bar training):</b>
<b>Contact Address:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Mobile:</b>	

We confirm that these details will not be provided to any third parties without your prior permission.

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Dated:</b>	

Nottinghamshire Law Society  
11 Clarendon Street, Nottingham NG1 5HR  
Email: [michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org](mailto:michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org) Telephone: 0115 9505324