

**Announces the
2012**

**MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP
WRITING AND RESEARCH COMPETITION**

Prizes will be awarded for the top student papers on an issue or topic related to South Dakota law or public policy

First Prize: \$400.00
Second Prize: \$200.00
Third Prize: \$100.00

- THE COMPETITION IS OPEN TO ALL CURRENT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA LAW STUDENTS AND MPA STUDENTS
- CONTEST RULES – **SEE BELOW**
- SUBMIT BOTH A HARD COPY AND ELECTRONIC VERSION TO CANDICE.SPURLIN@USD.EDU / LAW SCHOOL ROOM 224
- DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS: **March 15, 2012**
- PRIZES ANNOUNCED: **APRIL 21, 2012**

PANEL OF JUDGES

- David Gerdes, Chair, May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson LLP — Pierre
- Timothy M. Gebhart, Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, LLP — Sioux Falls
- Tara L. Glasford, Adj. Prof., Bus. Admin., University Center/DSU — Sioux Falls
- Melissa E. Neville, Bantz, Gosch & Cremer, LLC — Aberdeen
- Doug Hoffman, Judge, 2nd Judicial Circuit — Sioux Falls
- Jane Pfeifle, Lynn, Jackson, Shultz & Lebrun, PC — Rapid City
- Justin Bell, May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson LLP — Pierre

CONTEST SPONSOR

This contest is sponsored by May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson LLP, a full service law firm located in the capital city of Pierre, South Dakota, specializing in litigation, government relations, lobbying, and administrative and regulatory law, including practice before the state regulatory agencies, including the Public Utilities Commission, the Departments of Revenue and Regulation, Health, Labor, Game Fish and Parks, and Environment and Natural Resources. Founded in 1881, the firm is South Dakota's oldest. The firm's web site is at www.magt.com.

CONTEST RULES

1. Papers may be on any topic susceptible to scholarly analysis. The topic chosen should permit analytical treatment allowing the author to make a well grounded argument for change or a defensible conclusion. The contest is open to all law students and MPA students.
2. Manuscripts must be at least fifteen full pages and not more than thirty pages in length, double spaced, with appropriate footnotes and references to supporting authority. Twelve point fonts shall be used.
3. The finished product must be the result of original individual research and writing of the author. Papers prepared for academic purposes, such as law review or moot court submission, independent study or class credit, may be submitted so long as student editorial assistance does not constitute a major revision, reorganization or analytical change. Acceptance of significant editorial assistance or commentary by professors or other professionals will disqualify an entrant. When in doubt writers should contact the Hagemann Center in advance.
4. Papers will be judged in five categories: organization/flow, grammar/citation, research/authority, persuasiveness/readability and creativity. Emphasis, among other things, will be placed on good grammar, solid research and logical progression of the discussion to a clear and defensible conclusion.
5. Prizes will be awarded for first place (\$400), second place (\$200) and third place (\$100). In case of a tie, the money for the highest tied place will be combined with the money for the next succeeding place and divided equally between the contestants. A tie for third place will result in a division of third place money.
6. A hard copy accompanied by an electronic version should be sent to Candice Spurlin at Candice.Spurlin@usd.edu /Law School Room 224.