



CRITERIA FOR CCH-ALTA BEST CONFERENCE PAPER AWARDS

In keeping with its mission to promote excellence in research and support early career academics, there will be two annual awards on offer for papers presented at the Annual Conference of the Australasian Law Teachers Association. They are:

- Best Overall Conference Paper
- Best Early Career Academic Conference Paper

The winner of each award will receive \$500 AUD.

The following criteria apply:

1. To be eligible for consideration for the best conference paper awards, all of the following must be adhered to:

- a. Papers must be received by the Conference Committee by the submission of papers deadline set by the Conference Committee:
 - (i) This deadline should not be less than two weeks and not more than four weeks prior to the first day of the Annual Conference.
- b. A submission sheet will be provided to authors for use when submitting their conference paper to the Conference Committee by the submission of papers deadline. **All papers** submitted to the Conference Committee will be considered for the Best Overall Conference Paper award unless the author indicates on the submission sheet that they do not wish to be considered for either award. This submission sheet is an acknowledgment that the paper is submitted for one or both of the awards, or none of the above. The author will need to specifically nominate on the submission sheet whether the paper is also being submitted for the Best Early Career Academic Conference Paper award:
 - (i) To be considered for the Best Early Career Academic Conference Paper award, the paper must be received by the Conference Committee within three years of the author's first appointment to a lectureship or research equivalent. The author must provide the date of first appointment and the name of the employer on the submission sheet;
 - (ii) The submission sheet will also acknowledge that if the author wins either or both of the awards and the paper is subsequently published, the published version will contain a reference that acknowledges receipt of the award(s) at the ALTA Annual Conference. A paper that wins either or both of the awards will be accepted for publication by ALTA as a refereed conference paper, if the paper is submitted for publication;
 - (iii) If the paper is jointly written, and one author is not an early career academic, the paper is ineligible for the Best Early Career Academic Conference Paper award.
- c. The author of the paper must be an ALTA member. If a paper is jointly written, at least one author must be an ALTA member.

- d. The paper must be presented at the ALTA Annual Conference to which it is submitted.
 - e. The paper must be between 2 500 and 5 000 words.
 - f. Citation and text are according to the Melbourne University Law Review, *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* (2nd ed) 2005.
- 2. In addition to 1.b.iii., a paper will be ineligible for consideration for the best conference paper awards if it:**
- a. Has been submitted for publication or published in Australasia or elsewhere; or
 - b. Was presented at the ALTA Annual Conference as a result of an invitation by the conference organisers; or
 - c. Was presented at a plenary session of the ALTA Annual Conference; or
 - d. The author is on the Selection Committee.
 - (i) The Selection Committee for the best conference paper awards will consist of at least three members in total, chosen from the ALTA New Zealand and Australian Executives.
- 3. In making its decision(s), the Selection Committee will consider the following:**
- a. It is acceptable for an author to win both awards. All eligible submitted papers will be judged for the Best Overall Conference Paper award. Those authors who submit an eligible paper for the Best Early Career Academic Conference Paper award will then be judged against other eligible papers submitted for the same award in terms of the general criteria.
 - b. Papers will be blind refereed by the Selection Committee
 - c. The general criteria include:
 - (i) Choice of topic and analysis of issues;
 - (ii) Quality of originality and research;
 - (iii) Coherence of argument and structure;
 - (iv) Writing style and referencing;
 - (v) Significance and relevance of paper to Conference theme;
 - (vi) Clarity of thematic focus;
 - (vii) Relationship to literature;
 - (viii) Use of theory;
 - (ix) Critical qualities;
 - (x) Clarity of conclusions;
- 4. The awards are to be presented to the winner(s), or in absentia, at the ALTA AGM one year in arrears from when the paper was originally submitted to and presented at the ALTA Conference.**

The Selection Committee has the final approval on questions of eligibility. The Selection Committee may decline to make an award in either category in any year.