

## Article Addressing Affirmative Action in Education Wins Education Law Association Award

DAYTON, Ohio, November 12, 2009 - The Education Law Association (ELA) presented its *George Jay Joseph Education Law Writing Award* at its 55th Annual Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky, October 21-24, 2009. Top government officials as well as legal and educational scholars from across the country will convene for this event.

The *George Jay Joseph Education Law Writing Award* was established in memory of George Jay Joseph, a humanitarian-businessman and long-time member of the Education Law Association. This writing award is presented annually and was designed to generate increased interest in and recognition of education law among graduate students in education schools and law school students. The subject matter must address current and emerging legal issues within any of the various contexts of public and private K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. The winning article will be published in the *Journal of Law and Education 2009*.

This year's award winner is Lauren Foley for her article entitled "From Comparing Plus Factors to Context Review: The Future of Affirmative Action in Higher Education." Foley completed her undergraduate degree, in Religion, at Dartmouth College and worked in its college admissions office after graduation. She considered her work at Dartmouth and her training in law school to propose ways in which admissions offices can seek to compile a methodology of admission that is constitutionally safer and more defensible when challenged. Foley recently explained her research and proposal for the safer mechanisms: "Evaluating students within the context of their educational and personal backgrounds instead of direct competition between applicants avoids preference for race over other characteristics, yet continues to prioritize the diversity of the student body as a compelling interest in higher education."

Foley is a 2009 graduate of Michigan State University College of Law and a 2003 graduate of Dartmouth College. She served as the associate editor of the *Michigan State Law Review* while a student at MSU. As the recipient of this award, she was invited to attend the ELA annual conference to formally accept and also to present her article during one of the breakout sessions. Additionally, she will receive a one-year subscription to the *Journal of Law and Education* for her efforts, courtesy of ELA and the Jefferson Law Book Company.

The selection committee for the *George Jay Joseph Education Law Writing Award*, in reporting their selection for this top prize, also noted that Anthony Bruno, a student at New York Law School, should receive special recognition for his article, "Is Achieving Equal Educational Opportunity Possible? An Empirical Study of New York State Public Schools," which came in a very close second place to Foley's article. Bruno will also receive a one-year subscription to the *Journal of Law and Education* for his efforts.

Established in 1954, the Education Law Association (ELA) is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) member association located at the University of Dayton. ELA promotes interest in and understanding of the legal framework of education and the rights of students, parents, school administrators, school boards, and school employees in public and private K-12 educational institutions, as well as higher education. For further information, visit [www.educationlaw.org](http://www.educationlaw.org).



**Contact:**

Cate K. Smith, J.D., Executive Director  
Education Law Association  
300 College Park, Dayton, OH 45469-0528  
937-229-3589 [www.educationlaw.org](http://www.educationlaw.org)