

**RICHARD GRAND LEGAL WRITING COMPETITION
FALL 2008**

For this Competition, you are to write an editorial or an op-ed piece arguing either that the U.S. Supreme Court opinion in *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, 128 S.Ct. 2641 (2008) was rightly or wrongly decided. In *Kennedy*, the Court held that the Eighth Amendment prohibits the imposition of the death penalty for the rape of a child.

The *Kennedy* decision is lengthy. You can find it on Westlaw or Lexis by its citation. You can also find it many places on the web, including at this link:

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/07pdf/07-343.pdf>

Moreover, you can find a wealth of *Kennedy* materials on the SCOTUS Wiki web site:

[http://www.scotuswiki.com/index.php?title=Kennedy v. Louisiana](http://www.scotuswiki.com/index.php?title=Kennedy_v._Louisiana)

There, you will find the argument transcript, the briefs, and the lower court opinion.

One note: The opinion was amended recently. In its order denying rehearing, the Court added a footnote stating that the existence of the death penalty for child rape under military law, which went unmentioned in the original majority opinion, “does not affect our reasoning or conclusions.” See <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/07pdf/07-343Kennedy.pdf>.

You may choose your audience for this editorial. Attach a separate sheet of paper – not counted within the page limit – indicating the target readership of the publication. For instance, you could write the editorial for a publication of criminal defense lawyers, prosecutors, young lawyers, the National Lawyer's Guild, or the Federalist Society. These are only examples. The choice is yours. *The only limitation is that the target audience must be made up of lawyers.* You need not specifically name the publication. It is sufficient just to name your target readership. If you fail to designate your target readership, the judges will assume that you are writing an editorial for *Arizona Attorney*, the official publication of the State Bar of Arizona. For some examples of recent editorials and opinion articles in *Arizona Attorney* magazine, see:

http://www.myazbar.org/AZAttorney/PDF_Articles/0406Hedonic1.pdf

http://www.myazbar.org/AZAttorney/PDF_Articles/0905Con3.pdf

http://www.myazbar.org/AZAttorney/PDF_Articles/0408cocaine.pdf

http://www.myazbar.org/AZAttorney/PDF_Articles/0907AvoidPernicious.pdf

http://www.myazbar.org/AZAttorney/PDF_Articles/1106edpro.pdf

http://www.myazbar.org/AZAttorney/PDF_Articles/1106con.pdf

http://www.myazbar.org/AZAttorney/PDF_Articles/0606MemoPRO.pdf

This is a writing competition. We encourage you to be interesting, to communicate a point of view, to educate your reader, to make a compelling argument, to turn a phrase here and there. We anticipate that Competition participants will have a variety of opinions. Some will support the Court's opinion in *Kennedy*. Some will oppose it. Different reasons will be offered for these conclusions. Moreover, we are not looking for one particular writing style. Your target audience will likely inform much of how you approach writing this profile.

By the Rules of the Competition, all entries must be typed and double-spaced, with 13-point font or larger. Block quotes may be single-spaced. The maximum length of the paper is eight pages. Margins must be one inch or larger on all four sides. But, please don't feel compelled to fill the full eight pages. Fill just as much space as necessary to tell write a complete, persuasive editorial.

Please carefully read the Richard Grand Legal Writing Competition Rules, General Information, and Frequently Asked Questions, which are posted on the College of Law web site.