

Law in Society Essay Contest Winner

When Timothy Park received his award for the winning essay in this year's Law in Society essay contest, one of the people looking on proudly was his father, Major Sean Park, who returned in October from a year-long tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Tim Park, a freshman at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, won first place in the 2014 Law in Society Contest sponsored by the Virginia State Bar and its Litigation Section.

Tim won for his essay "Sammy Senior's Legal Woes in the Age of Social Media." He received \$2,300.

This year's essay contest asked students to address a hypothetical situation where an 18-year-old male student was filmed drinking at a party. An older student recorded the scene on video, e-mailed it to the younger student's school principal, and posted the video and pictures to social media websites. The student was then suspended from school based on the information seen on the websites. The essay is available at <http://www.vsb.org/site/public/2014-winning-essay>.

Tim received his award at the Virginia State Bar's Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach on June 13. "I'm very excited to come to Virginia Beach," he said. "And I am happy to bring my dad who just came back from deployment to Afghanistan."

Tim said he heard about the Law in Society Award Contest from his teacher, R. Cody Phillips. Tim did his research by reading the VSB website, last year's winning essay, and the hypothetical case. He said it took about three weeks from the time he learned about the award until he finished the essay during his Christmas break.



Law in Society Essay Contest Winner, Timothy Park of Trinity Christian School, poses for a photo following his award presentation at the Annual Meeting with his mother, Jenny; sister, Gabrielle; and father, Sean.

His teacher found him in the school hallway one day and told him he had won. "At first, I couldn't believe it," Tim said. "I was at a loss for words."

He plans to use the money to attend the Georgetown International Relations Institute at Georgetown University. High school students in the program learn about international relations and politics and visit a number of embassies in Washington DC.

Tim has an A average at Trinity Christian, is on the varsity cross country and baseball teams, and plays cello in the advanced string orchestra. He is a chief master sergeant in the school's auxiliary club, Civil Air Patrol, and also is certified to teach snowboarding.

The Law in Society award was developed to increase awareness of and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution and legal system. Park's essay was among dozens submitted by public, private, and

homeschooled students in the equivalent of high school.

Mara Reichle, a junior at York High School in Yorktown, and Laura Cross, a senior at Douglas Freeman High School in Richmond, placed second and third, respectively. Reichle will receive \$1,850 and Cross \$1,350.

Five honorable mentions were awarded to: Lydia Cawley of Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, DoñaMaria Reed of Landstown High School in Virginia Beach, Bailey Holland of James River High School in Midlothian, Christiana Johnson of Glen Allen High School in Henrico, and Grace Baggett of Mountain View Christian Academy in Winchester.

Each honorable mention was awarded \$250. All winners received plaques commemorating their win and the newest edition of *Strunk and White's Elements of Style*.