

BEST THESIS AWARD



REGULATION

WhatNext.Law Best Thesis Award

CHAPTER I – GENERAL RULES

Section 1

Scope

1. This Regulation establishes the terms and conditions for WhatNext.Law Best Thesis (“Award”).
2. The Award is offered by **NOVA School of Law** and **Vieira de Almeida & Associados – Sociedade de Advogados SP RL (“VdA”)** (together as “Parties”), in the context of the activities of the Research Centre “WhatNext.Law” (“Centre”).
3. The objective of the Award is to distinguish and award theses of scientific merit and quality whose topics fall within the scope of the Centre’s research areas, and which are eligible under the terms of this Regulation.

Section 2

Participants

Any person with, at least, a master’s degree, irrespective of whether it was obtained from a Portuguese or a foreign university, may participate.

Section 3

Frequency

1. The Award will be awarded once a year.

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CHAPTER II – APPLICATIONS

Section 4

Call for Best Thesis and Applications

1. Subject to the frequency defined, the Centre will periodically launch *Call for Best Thesis* with the objective of selecting the winner of the Award.
2. The *Call for Best Thesis* referred in the previous subclause will be published on the Centre's website and should:
 - a) Identify the relevant research topics which should be in line with the general research areas of the Centre;
 - b) Identify the requirements of participation;
 - c) Indicate the deadlines for submitting the applications, as well as the deadlines for evaluating and publishing the results;
 - d) Identifying the email to which applications should be submitted.
3. Applications should be sent to the email identified therein by the deadline set in the *Call for Best Thesis*. The date and time of submission will correspond, for all purposes, to the date and time of sending the email message to the email identified in the *Call for Best Thesis*.

Section 5

Requirements for Participants

1. The Award will only be awarded to those participants who meet the criteria set out in this Regulation and in the *Call for Best Thesis*.
2. Every participant may submit only one thesis and corresponding insight in each call.

Section 6

Requirements for Theses

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1. Theses submitted in the context of the *Call for Best Thesis* should meet the following requirements:
 - a) They are original and written by the participant(s);
 - b) They must not be previously published, in whole or in part, irrespective of the means and form of publication, until the results of the Award have been published and, in the case of the theses selected for publication, they must not be published until the date of publication by the Centre. For the avoidance of doubt, the limitation of previous publication mentioned above does not refer to making available the theses in the library of the university institution from which the participant acquired their master's degree. In the event that the thesis submitted has been published elsewhere in whole or in part, the applicant hereby undertakes to obtain the necessary permissions and authorisations for the Centre to republish the thesis, if necessary;
 - c) The topic should cover one of the areas identified in the *Call for Best Thesis*;
 - d) They must be written in the Portuguese or English language. In the first case, it is required that the title, keywords and abstract are also provided in English;
 - e) They must have been defended in the current and/or previous academic year, according to the *Call for Best Thesis*.
2. For the purposes of paragraph b) of this Section, theses that have been printed or submitted as part of the participants evaluation at a university shall not be considered as published.
3. The thesis should be submitted in both Word and PDF format or equivalent ones.
1. The Call for Submissions shall be accompanied by the template and guidelines for the WhatNext.law insight submitted alongside the thesis. The insight is an online short-form blog post presenting and reviewing the thesis (its topic, arguments and conclusions), which applicants must submit alongside their thesis.

Section 7

Evaluation Criteria

1. Submitted theses that meet the applicable requirements will be evaluated by the Centre's Scientific Commission, based on the following criteria:
 - a) Originality and innovation in addressing current or future legal challenges.

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- b) Scientific quality of research, analysis, and methodology.
 - c) Contribution to the progress and development of science within the general research areas of the Centre;
 - d) Quality of writing and clarity and coherence of the presentation.
2. The final evaluation of each submission will consider both the thesis (70%) and the insight (30%).
 3. All texts will be submitted to the Turnitin plagiarism detection system. Any well-founded suspicion of fraud or plagiarism will lead to the rejection of the thesis, without prejudice to any possible communication to the competent authorities for the opening of an investigation.

CHAPTER III – AWARD AND PUBLICATION

Section 8

Award

1. After the evaluation of the theses submitted, the Executive Commission will proceed to the final selection of the thesis that will receive the Award.
2. Depending on the number and quality of the submitted theses, there may be one or more winning entries. In this case the Executive Commission will decide at its discretion to either divide the Award amongst the winning theses or give more than one Award.
3. The results will be published on the website of the Centre.
4. The author of the winning thesis will receive the monetary amount identified in the *Call for Best Thesis*.
5. If the quality of the theses submitted justifies it, the Directive Commission of the Centre with the support of the Executive Commission may decide to award honourable mentions.
6. The Directive Commission of the Centre with the support of the Executive Commission may decide not to grant the Award if the theses submitted do not demonstrate the required scientific quality or if they do not fulfil other eligibility criteria.

Section 9

Authorisation and Publication

2. Pursuant to the applicable legislation, the thesis submission expressly grants to the Centre and the Parties a global, royalty-free authorisation to share and publish the theses submitted, by any means, digital or other.
3. The previous subclause shall apply only to the winning theses and honorable mentions submitted in the context of the *Call for Best Thesis*.
4. Authors of theses chosen for publication will be notified and may publish the same thesis or an adapted or modified version of it elsewhere, by any means, digital or other, 90 days after the publication of their thesis by the Centre. Upon selection, the authors of theses chose for publication may be requested to update their theses following the drafting and editing guidelines of the Center.
5. Any subsequent publication of the thesis, following the 90-day exclusivity period referred above, must mention and include an acknowledgement of the first publication of the thesis by the Centre, as well as, in the case of the winning authors, a mention to the Award. The following acknowledgement or a similar one can be used: “A previous version of this thesis was published on [site, including a link to the WhatNext.Law website]”.
6. Pursuant to the applicable legislation, the authors of the winning theses and honorable mentions also expressly grant to the Centre and the Parties a global, royalty-free authorisation to share and publish the “WhatNext.Law Insight”, an online short-form blog post presenting and reviewing the thesis (its topic, arguments and conclusions), which they submitted alongside their thesis.

CHAPTER IV – FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 10

Omissions

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Any cases of omission, including those concerning the evaluation and award process, will be resolved by the Centre's Executive Commission.

Section 11

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication on the Centre's website and shall always be available for consultation therein.