

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW JOURNAL OF PUBLIC LAW AND POLICY

PUBLIC POLICY ARGUMENT 2009

Please pick ONE of the four following options:

Option 1: Search And Seizure Involving Middle School Student

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently in the process of deciding *Safford Unified School District #1 et al. v. Redding*. The case requires the Supreme Court to interpret the Fourth Amendment as it pertains to students being free from unreasonable searches and seizures while at school.

Citations to the lower courts' opinions are listed below.

Prepare an essay of no more than 1,500 words (five pages) discussing the implications of this case using public policy arguments. You are free to use whatever sources you may find, but be mindful of the page limit.

U.S. District Court opinion: *Redding v. Safford Unified Sch. Dist.*, 504 F.3d 828 (9th Cir. Ariz. 2007).

U.S. Court of Appeals opinion: *Redding v. Safford Unified Sch. Dist. # 1*, 531 F.3d 1071 (9th Cir. Ariz. 2008)

NY Times article discussing the case:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/24/us/24savana.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1&em

Option 2: Gay Marriage

Select an issue or subtopic of your own choosing within this topic and craft an essay of no more than 1,500 words (five pages) discussing the public policy implications surrounding it. Write-on candidates are not limited in the scope of their topic selection, but should provide the Board of Editors with an adequate introduction to the issue addressed (one paragraph should suffice). Students are free to use any resources they find helpful in order to complete this analysis. Students are encouraged to address recent judicial opinions and legislative measures states have promulgated in this area when making their arguments.

Option 3: The Economic Stimulus Package

Select an issue or subtopic of your own choosing within this topic and craft an essay of no more than 1,500 words (five pages) discussing the public policy implications surrounding it. Remember to provide an adequate introduction to the issue addressed (one paragraph should suffice). Students are free to use any resources they find helpful in order to complete this analysis. For this option, students may address any aspect of the economic stimulus package Congress recently passed in the form of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 or they may more generally make an argument as to whether the Act is good public policy.

Option 4: Open Topic: Barriers to Justice for the Low-Income Community

Select an issue or subtopic of your own choosing within this topic and craft an essay of no more than 1,500 words (five pages) discussing the public policy implications surrounding it.

Remember to provide an adequate introduction to the issue addressed (one paragraph should suffice). Students are free to use any resources they find helpful in order to complete this analysis. Note that the Fall 2009 volume of the *Journal* will address the Spring 2009 symposium topic: Barriers to Justice: Responding to the Needs of America's Low-Income Population.

Selection Criteria

Submissions will be judged, primarily, on the quality of the student's public policy analysis. Write-on candidates should also ensure that their submission is clearly written and is free of grammatical, punctuation, typographical and other errors.

Citations

Students must cite to all sources used. The Hamline Journal of Public Law and Policy, along with a majority of legal publications, adopts Bluebook citation standards. Write-on submissions should be free from citation errors. While not a major factor in the selection process, numerous or egregious citation errors will be looked upon unfavorably.

Due Date

Please submit 9 copies each of your policy argument, appellate brief and personal statement to the Registrar's office by **5 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2009**. Please also include a sealed envelope with contact information inside (to preserve anonymity during the selection process) so that we may open it to reach you if you are selected.