

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE**

**Sarin - McGill Annual Student Essay Contest on Aircraft Finance & Leasing 2020**

**Preamble**

The Sarin-McGill Essay Contest has been established to promote the field of Aircraft Finance & Leasing Law among law students across the globe. The topic of Aircraft Finance & Leasing Law is often overlooked due to a common misconception that the field occupies a very niche spot, resulting in inadequate attention being accorded to this fascinating and dynamic field of law. Aircraft Finance & Leasing Law blends aspects of both international and domestic law, enhancing its interest and complexity. The conflict between international and domestic law poses a riveting challenge to lawyers practicing in this particular field of law. Moreover, various issues related to implementation of international law are faced on a daily basis depending upon jurisdiction. Sarin & Co., a leading Indian law firm with a strong speciality in the field of Aircraft Finance & Leasing Law, has established this Essay Contest with the main objective of promoting the subject of Aircraft Finance & Leasing Law and encouraging student authors to think creatively and beyond the established rules and principles of law, thereby adding a future-leaning dimension and innovative approach to this ever-evolving field of law. Sarin & Co. have partnered with McGill University's Institute of Air & Space Law (the "IASL") to organise this pioneering event.

**2020 Essay Contest Topic:**

**"Force Majeure" and Aircraft Acquisition Contracts: What Should Airlines Do?**

Recent groundings of aircraft types and the spread of the coronavirus health emergency have many airlines asking if they are still obliged to take delivery of aircraft under aircraft purchase or lease agreements. What should be the effect of these recent developments on airlines' obligations under such contracts?

**Part I – The Prize**

1. One (1) author shall be adjudged as the winner of the Sarin - McGill Annual Student Essay Contest on Aircraft Finance & Leasing for a particular calendar year;
2. The winner shall receive a return air ticket (economy class) by Sarin & Co. from his / her country of residence to visit the IASL for a specially organised tour of the IASL and of McGill University;
3. The winner shall be provided by the IASL with accommodation for two nights along with meals;
4. The winning essay shall be published in the official academic journal of the IASL, the *Annals of Air and Space Law*, as well as on the Sarin & Co. website. The winning essay shall contain the title, "Winner of the Sarin - McGill Annual Student Essay Contest on Aircraft Finance & Leasing 2020";
5. Where a student of McGill University is adjudged as the winner, he / she shall receive a return air ticket (economy class) by Sarin & Co. from his / her country of residence to visit Sarin & Co. in Chandigarh, India for a specially organised tour of the city of Chandigarh (in such a scenario, Sarin & Co. shall provide the two nights' accommodation and meals);
6. The winner of the 2020 contest shall be announced on 1 November 2020. The name of the winner, along with the name of the winner's law school, shall be displayed on the websites of both Sarin & Co. and the

IASL, as well as on their respective social media platforms; The winner will also receive a complimentary copy of the volume of the *Annals of Air and Space Law* in which the winning essay is published.

#### **Part II – Eligibility Criteria**

1. Any student of law, enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral programme in any law school or legal professional training school worldwide, at the time of submission of the entry, shall be considered eligible.

#### **Part III – The Essay**

1. The essay shall be authored in the English language by a single author;
2. An author may submit only one essay;
3. The essay shall be limited to a maximum of 2500 words including footnotes or endnotes; the following formatting shall be used - Font: Arial / Size: 12 font (main text) and Size 10 (footnotes); Line Spacing: 1.5 (main text) and 1 (footnotes); Margins: 1 inch on all sides; Page Numbers: to be added on each page on the bottom right corner;
4. Only essays which are the original work of the author will be considered for the Prize. No part of the essay should have been published earlier nor should it be under consideration for publication or in a contest elsewhere.

#### **Part IV - The Registration**

1. Each prospective author must complete and submit the registration form which shall be available on the Sarin & Co. website, i.e. [www.sarinlaw.com](http://www.sarinlaw.com);
2. The registration form must be signed by the prospective author and a .pdf of the signed form must be submitted to [sarin-mcgill@sarinlaw.com](mailto:sarin-mcgill@sarinlaw.com) along with a scanned copy of the author's current student identity card to establish his / her institutional affiliation and credentials;
3. The final date for submission of the registration form (along with student identity card) shall be 30 June 2020.

#### **Part V – The Submission Process**

1. The essay shall be submitted in both .doc (or .docx) as well as .pdf;
2. The essay shall be submitted to [sarin-mcgill@sarinlaw.com](mailto:sarin-mcgill@sarinlaw.com) with both attachments; the email should be captioned "Sarin McGill Final Submission," and should also include "Author's Name & Student Status";
3. The final date for submission of the essay shall be 31 August 2020.

#### **Part VI - Evaluation Process**

1. All submissions received will be evaluated by a screening committee (to be set up by Sarin & Co.) and authors of the top 5 essays shall be notified via email;
2. The top 5 essays shall be sent to the Jury for the selection of the winner;
3. The evaluation process shall include (but not be limited to) criteria such as a clear statement of the problem to be addressed, high quality of writing including ability to write clear academic prose, logical flow of argument, use of national and international legal sources, and persuasiveness in proposing law reform and future research areas.

#### **Part VII - The Jury**

1. The Jury shall consist of renowned professors of law, experts in aircraft finance and leasing, general counsel and counsel of the world's premier aircraft leasing companies and banks, etc.; the Jury members shall not be identified to the public

#### **Part VIII - Disqualifications**

1. An author shall be disqualified should he or she not be a qualified student of law on the date of close of registration;
2. Any evidence of plagiarism shall result in immediate disqualification;
3. Delayed or incomplete entries shall not be accepted;
4. For any other reason, in the reasonable judgment of Sarin & Co. or the IASL.

#### **Part IX - Miscellaneous**

1. The administration of the contest for the purpose of determining the eligibility of an author or essay, formation of the Jury, and confirmation of the winning entry, shall be within the sole and absolute discretion of Sarin & Co.;
2. Copyright in the winning essay will remain with Sarin & Co.;
3. Sarin & Co. reserves the right to decide the date of travel to Canada (or India) as the case may be; Sarin & Co. shall take into consideration any request of the winner as to dates of travel, but the requested dates are not guaranteed;
4. The responsibility for arranging visas, accommodation beyond the two nights being provided by the IASL or by Sarin & Co. as the case may be, meals beyond those being provided by the IASL or by Sarin & Co. as the case may be, and any other travel arrangements besides the economy class air ticket will lie solely with the winner;
5. The winner shall be provided with an invitation letter from McGill University to aid the visa process; such an invitation letter shall only be issued should the winner provide a copy of his or her passport promptly upon the request of Sarin & Co.