

1. NVV Thesis Prize for Transport Law

- 1.1. As evidenced by the objects clause in its articles of association, , the Dutch Transport Law Association (*de Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vervoerrecht*) (hereinafter referred to as: the Association) aims, amongst others, to include the promotion of legal science, as well as the promotion of the quality of the application of law insofar as it is related to transport, in the broadest sense.
- 1.2. In order to further promote research in the field of transport law, the Association has decided to establish a prize for an outstanding master thesis of a scientific nature in the field of transport law.
- 1.3. At the Journée Schadee, the annual meeting of the Association in or around the month of April (hereinafter referred to as: Journée Schadee), a prize shall be awarded to an author of a thesis selected on the basis of these Rules, called: the "*NVV-scriptieprijs*" (NVV Thesis Prize), consisting of an amount of € 2,000 (two thousand euros) to be made available by the Association to the author of the thesis selected. Furthermore, the Association shall ensure publication of the selected thesis in an independent publication, through its own media and in the *Tijdschrift voor Vervoerrecht* (Journal for Transport Law) or a comparable journal.
- 1.4. The Association reserves the right to publish other than the winning thesis via its media.
- 1.5. The assessment of the theses and the decision to award the prize will be made by a Panel of Judges, as specified in Article 5.

2. Thesis

- 2.1. In these Rules, a thesis is understood to be an original piece of work in the field of legal science that focuses on transport law in the broadest sense. It may deal with a topic of general transport law, but also one (or more) question(s) concerning one or more modes of transport (by inland waterway, in the ground, by air, by rail, by road, by sea). The thesis must have been written within the framework of graduating in the Master program at a Dutch university or institution of higher professional education.
- 2.2. The thesis shall have at least 8,000 and no more than 25,000 words, excluding texts in registers, references and footnotes. Each page must be numbered. The footnotes must appear at the bottom of the page concerned (not endnotes).
- 2.3. The thesis must be written in Dutch or English.
- 2.4. Only theses that have been graded 8 or higher (on a scale from 1 to 10) by the education institution concerned are eligible for assessment.
- 2.5. Only theses that have been completed and submitted to the relevant education institution in the period of twelve months prior to the closing date referred to in Article 2.6 are eligible for assessment.
- 2.6. The thesis to be awarded at a Journée Schadee shall be selected by the Panel of Judges from the theses received by the Secretary of the Association on 31 December of the previous year at the latest. Theses received by the Association after 31 December shall be included in the selection for the following year.

3. Participation

- 3.1. Participation is open to students or recent graduates from a Dutch university or institution of higher professional education.

- 3.2 If the thesis was written by more than one person, these persons will compete as if they were one person. The Association is not responsible for distributing the thesis prize between joint entrants.
- 3.3 Board members of the Association and members or advisors of the Panel of Judges are excluded from participation.

4. Submission of the Thesis

- 4.1 Submission shall be made by the author himself/herself.
- 4.2 Theses must be submitted to the Secretary of the Association both by e-mail and by regular mail (see contact details on the Association's website).
- 4.3 By submitting a thesis to the Association, the author grants permission for the thesis to be made public and published on the Association's media, at the Association's discretion, without any claim to compensation for copyright or any other right. If the Association decides to publish the thesis in any other way, the author will be consulted on a possible fee.

5. The Panel of Judges

- 5.1 The Panel of Judges shall consist of at least three persons appointed and dismissed by the General Board of the Association.
- 5.2 The Panel of Judges shall assess the theses on the basis of the criteria as mentioned in these Rules.
- 5.3 The Panel of Judges may be advised and/or assisted by one or more advisers, if the subject matter and/or number of theses submitted gives cause to do so.
- 5.4 The advisers use the same assessment criteria as the Panel of Judges. The advisers have no vote in the decision to award the prize.
- 5.5 The names and qualifications of the advisor(s) will not be disclosed except in the case they have assessed the thesis awarded with the prize.
- 5.6 The Panel of Judges shall ensure that the thesis is assessed with integrity, taking into account, among other things, any involvement of one or more of the members of the Panel of Judges or advisers in the preparation of the thesis. In the event of justifiable concerns about the integrity of the assessment, or about such involvement, the member of the Panel of Judges or the adviser in question can be replaced by a member of the Association's General Board on the recommendation of any member of the Panel of Judges.
- 5.7 If and to the extent that none of the theses submitted meet the evaluation criteria used by the jury in all reasonableness and fairness, the prize will not be awarded in that year.
- 5.8 If the author refuses the prize, the Panel of Judges will decide whether or not another thesis qualifies for the prize.
- 5.9 The decision of the Panel of Judges on the awarding of the prize is binding. Neither appeal nor correspondence about this decision is possible.

6. Criteria

- 6.1 The Panel of Judges will assess the theses on the basis of the criteria mentioned in this article in particular.
- 6.2 Originality: the extent to which the subject matter and the question(s) or conclusion(s) of the thesis show scientifically sound originality, and a perspective and opinions of the author him/herself.
- 6.3 Practical applicability: the extent to which the subject and the opinions, views and proposed solutions described in the thesis are of practical importance to the world of transport, in such a way that their conversion into policy, case law and/or regulations is possible.
- 6.4 Accessibility: the extent to which the author treats the subject in a readable and comprehensible manner.
- 6.5 Legal depth: the extent to which the author has sufficiently elaborated the subject and the extent to which this converts to the level of difficulty of the subject dealt with.

- 6.6 Legal expertise: the extent to which the author demonstrates a legal expertise of the subject matter and in the underlying international and Dutch law and - in so far as comparative law is involved - in the relevant foreign law.
- 6.7 Academic value: the extent to which the thesis enriches legal science by its content, classification, discussion of jurisprudence and literature, as well as the conclusions drawn by the author, in such a way that the author or third parties can subsequently delve even further into the subject in a scientific manner.
- 6.8 Legal completeness: the degree of completeness of case law and literature research in relation to the subject matter, measured in terms of both the subject of transport law dealt with and the general areas of law on which it is based.
- 6.9 Comparative law: the extent to which study of comparative law has been conducted, to what degree and with what result, as well as the extent to which the comparative law contributes to the finding of Dutch law. Because not every subject is suitable for a comparative law study, this criterion will only be included as a decisive criterion in the assessment by the Panel of Judges if two or more writers finish *ex aequo* in the assessment of the criteria mentioned under 6.2 up to and including 6.8.

7. Announcement and Awarding the Prize

- 7.1 On the Journée Schadee the Panel of Judges will announce whether and if so to which thesis the prize has been awarded. The Association will also announce this in its media.
- 7.2 Anyone who has submitted a thesis will be invited by the Secretary of the Association to the Journée Schadee in question and will then be informed in writing of the decision of the Panel of Judges.

8. Withdrawal of the Prize

- 8.1 If, once the prize has been awarded, it appears that the selected thesis is not (in whole or in part) an original work by the author, has been created through fraud or plagiarism, or has been created in any other irregular manner, the Panel of Judges may revoke the award of the prize. The Secretary of the Association will inform the author of the intention of the Panel of Judges, stating the reason(s).
- 8.2 The writer who is informed of the intention of the Panel of Judges as referred to under 8.1 will have fourteen days after receiving this information to respond in writing to the Secretary of the Association. After receiving a response from the author, or - if no response is received - three weeks after the notification of the intention referred to in 8.1, the Panel of Judges will come to its decision. If the Panel of Judges revokes the award of the prize, the award lapses and the author is obliged to immediately return or refund the prize and other emoluments to the Association.
- 8.3 The decision of the Panel of Judges may be made public in the same way as the decision to award the prize.

9. Adoption and Amendment of the Rules

These Rules were adopted at the meeting of the General Board of the the Association on 15 October 2019 and may only be amended by the General Board of the Association.