

William P. Butterfield Award

The William P. Butterfield Award for Excellence in eDiscovery Writing

The William P. Butterfield Award for Excellence in eDiscovery Writing will be presented annually to recognize and incentivize innovative legal thinking, independent research, and technical solutions that advance the field of eDiscovery and promote cooperation, collaboration, and efficiency in eDiscovery.

The winner of the competition will be recognized in a news release announcing the Award, receive a \$10,000 cash award from Hausfeld, and, at the option of the winner and The Sedona Conference®, have his or her winning paper published in *The Sedona Conference Journal*.

The eponymous award honors the memory of the late William P. Butterfield, a founding member of Hausfeld, former chair of The Sedona Conference's Working Group 1 Steering Committee on electronic discovery, and an eDiscovery thought leader.

Hausfeld and The Sedona Conference created the William P. Butterfield Award for Excellence in eDiscovery Writing to ensure Bill's legacy lives on and his contributions to legal practice are recognized for generations to come. The Award is designed to recognize and incentivize innovative legal thinking and technical solutions that advance the principles Bill so strongly embraced.

Eligibility

The competition is open to scholars, legal practitioners and law students, technologists and others working in the field of eDiscovery.

Paper Topics

Award submissions can be papers involving innovative technical or legal solutions or proposals, original quantitative or qualitative research relating to eDiscovery, or other similar topics that advance the field of eDiscovery or promote cooperation. The sizable cash award is intended to incentivize independent quantitative or qualitative research in eDiscovery, but eligibility is not limited to papers founded on empirical research.

Papers may be of a theoretical, legal, or technical nature. Papers should not be advocacy pieces expressing or promoting policy or litigation outcome preferences, nor should they serve as a promotional tool for commercially available products. Instead, papers should focus on research and solutions that promote a balanced, truth seeking approach to discovery, to which Bill was dedicated.

Technical pieces (for example, advancing innovative technologies for eDiscovery) should be written in plain language, with an eye toward nontechnical practitioner and judicial audiences.

Papers submitted may not have been previously accepted for publication by another journal if the author seeks publication in *The Sedona Conference Journal* as part of the Award. Entrants submitting previously published papers shall so note with their submission.

Deadlines

2019 Deadline Award: Submissions for the 2019 William P. Butterfield Excellence in eDiscovery Writing Award are still being accepted. Materials must be received no later than **June 1, 2019** to be considered for this year's award.

It is anticipated that the 2019 award winner will also be announced at the annual meeting of Working Group 1 in the fall of 2019.

Paper Format

Papers should be submitted in electronic format (PDF preferred), double spaced, with one-inch margins. Citation format should follow the citation style of *The Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation*, using the citation format applicable to law journals.

Paper Submission

Papers and completed submission forms should be sent as attachments via email to Butterfield_Award@sedonaconference.org on or before the deadlines identified above.

Selection Process

Submitted papers will be judged by a balanced panel composed of academics and practitioners in the field of eDiscovery, including representatives of Hausfeld and The Sedona Conference. Papers will be judged on their originality and informational value, as well as the quality of the author's research, writing, and analysis.

Hausfeld and The Sedona Conference reserve the right not to issue an award if, in the sole opinion of the judges, the papers submitted do not meet their standards for the Award.

Award Benefits

- Recognition in a news release announcing the recipient of each annual Award, distributed to national legal outlets;
- A \$10,000 cash award from Hausfeld; and
- At the option of the winner and The Sedona Conference, have his or her winning paper published in the next volume of *The Sedona Conference Journal*. The Second Conference reserves the right to edit papers that are selected for publication.

[Download Submission Form](#)