



## THE 2025 GRATON PRIZE IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Endowed by Claude Dewing Graton, Class of 1900, the Graton Prize is awarded annually to the best essay responding to a current question in constitutional law. This year's prize will award up to \$4,000 to the best response to each of three questions:

1. Does the President of the United States have authority to shutter unilaterally an administrative agency created by the U.S. Congress?
2. Does the President of the United States have authority to impound funds allocated for spending by the U.S. Congress?
3. Does the citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment guarantee citizenship to children born in the United States to non-citizens without legal status to reside in the United States?

### Notes and directions:

Any regularly enrolled UMaine undergraduate may enter the contest. A qualifying essay must respond to only one of the set questions and should illustrate its answer by drawing (where appropriate) on the intent of the Framers, actions of Congress and/or the executive; and landmark decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. **Essays must have two cover sheets:** one with the title only, the other with the student's name, class, and contact information. Essays must be submitted via email to Deborah Grant, the Political Science Administrative Specialist ([dlgrant@maine.edu](mailto:dlgrant@maine.edu)), no later than **Thursday, 10 April, 2025**.

Judging criteria include:

1. Clarity of issue identification and thesis
2. Strength of argument and analysis
3. Quality of research
4. Coherence of organization and grammar
5. At least eight (8) direct quotations from relevant U.S. Supreme Court decisions, cited according to standard practice using the U.S. Reports

Due to the pervasiveness of generative A.I., **qualifying essays must also include an appendix** containing the student's notes and/or essay outline from which the essay was composed.

Questions about the contest may be directed to Robert Ballingall, Associate Professor of Political Science, [robert.ballingall@maine.edu](mailto:robert.ballingall@maine.edu). Extra copies of this announcement are available in the office of the Administrative Assistant, Department of Political Science.