In 1958, President Eisenhower promulgated the first Law Day, U.S.A. as “a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law.” Every year since, the President has officially promulgated Law Day as a celebration of our commitment to the rule of law, “an occasion for rededication to the ideals of equality and justice under the law.” That great commitment is enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, and has been reaffirmed by the words and deeds of great Americans throughout our Nation’s history.

The North Carolina Bar Association and its Young Lawyers Division, through a formal proclamation by the Governor of North Carolina, celebrate Law Day on the first Friday in May.

The Law Day Essay Contest

Intended to be a fun and challenging experience, the Law Day Essay Contest offers an opportunity for North Carolina students in sixth through twelfth grades and their respective schools to participate in Law Day and potentially earn rewards in recognition of their efforts.

Enclosed is the 2018 Essay Contest Packet, which includes a detailed description of the contest, including eligibility and contest rules.

CONTEST AWARDS

Two prizes will be awarded in each category during the Law Week Ceremony in Raleigh on Friday, May 4, 2018.

First Prize:
$300 and a plaque of recognition [same to school]

Second Prize:
$200 and a plaque of recognition [same to school]
The U.S. Constitution sets out a system of government with distinct and independent branches—Congress, the Presidency, and a Supreme Court. It also defines legislative, executive, and judicial powers and outlines how they interact. These three separate branches share power, and each branch serves as a check on the power of the others. “Ambition must be made to counteract ambition,” James Madison explained in Federalist 51. Why? Madison believed that the Constitution’s principles of separation of powers and checks and balances preserve political liberty. They provide a framework for freedom. Yet, this framework is not self-executing. We the people must continually act to ensure that our constitutional democracy endures, preserving our liberties and advancing our rights. The Law Day 2018 theme enables us to reflect on the separation of powers as fundamental to our constitutional purpose and to consider how our governmental system is working for ourselves and our posterity.

**Contest Theme**

**Contest Rules**

1. Essays are to be 750 - 1,000 words in length (about three to four pages) and should be typed (preferably) or written legibly in ink, double-spaced on 8½”x 11” white paper using 1” margins. **DO NOT STAPLE THE ESSAY**; instead, please use a paper clip to keep the pages together.

2. Essays must be written entirely by the contestants.

3. The essays submitted should not be research papers, but instead should contain each student’s original thoughts on the topic.

4. All essays should include a separate cover sheet with the following information:
   (1) essay category (Middle or High School),
   (2) essay title,
   (3) student’s name,
   (4) grade level,
   (5) school and school district,
   (6) city and county,
   (7) student’s home address and home telephone number,
   (8) essay word count, and
   (9) submitting teacher’s name.

5. No plastic or heavy paper covers will be accepted.

6. Members of the Law Day Committee (“Committee”) will review the submitted essays with the other essays in that category. Essay selection is at the sole discretion of the Committee.

7. Essays CANNOT be returned. Students should therefore make a copy of their essays before entering the contest.

**CONTEST TIMETABLE**

**Winter 2017:**
Contest Announcement

**March 2, 2018:**
**POSTMARK DEADLINE**
Essays must be postmarked on or before this date to be eligible.

**April 2018:**
Winners notified

**May 4, 2018:**
Law Day 2018; Awards presented at the annual Law Day ceremony in Raleigh

**Please mail entries to:**
North Carolina Attorney General
Attn: Workers’ Compensation - Vince Walton
PO Box 629
Raleigh, NC 27690

**Questions**

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Vince Walton, vwalton@ncdoj.gov, or Jacquelyn Terrell, jterrell@ncbar.org, Staff Liaison to the Young Lawyers Division.