LAW DAY:

THE BACKGROUND

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 2020 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 1, 2020.

First Prize:
A plaque of recognition and $400 to the school

Second Prize:
A plaque of recognition and $250 to the school
The Law Day 2020 theme is “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100.” In 2019-2020, the United States is commemorating the centennial of the transformative constitutional amendment that guaranteed the right of citizens to vote would not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex. American women fought for, and won, the vote through their voice and action.

The women’s suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform. Yet, honest reflection on the suffrage movement reveals complexity and tensions over race and class that remain part of the ongoing story of the Nineteenth Amendment and its legacies.

### Contest Theme

**Essay Contest**

### 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, home telephone number, and email address, essay word count, and
   - (8) 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.

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**CONTEST TIMETABLE**

**Winter 2019:**

**Contest Announcement**

**March 6, 2020:**

**POSTMARK DEADLINE**

Essays must be postmarked on or before this date to be eligible.

**April 2020:**

Winners notified

**May 1, 2020:**

Law Day 2020;

Awards presented at the annual Law Day ceremony in Raleigh.

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**Please mail entries to:**

YLD c/o Vince Walton
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Safety & Risk Management
1594 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1594

vwalton@ncdot.gov

**Questions** If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Vince Walton, vwalton@ncdot.gov, or Lauren Colvard, lcolvard@nchar.org, Staff Liaison to the Young Lawyers Division.