



The History of Law Day

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 2022 Essay Contest Packet, which includes a detailed description of the contest, including eligibility and contest rules.

Contest Awards



Three prizes will be awarded in each category during the Law Week Ceremony which will be held virtually this year.

First Prize: A plaque of recognition and \$225 to the school

Second Prize: A plaque of recognition and \$150 to the school

Third Prize: A plaque of recognition and \$75 to the school

Eligibility:

The Essay Contest is a contest limited to children enrolled for the 2021-2022 year in grades 6-12.

Contest Theme



The Law Day 2022 theme is “Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change.” The Constitution is a dynamic document, as it not only outlines a blueprint for government, but also delegates power, articulates rights, and offers mechanism for changes. It is neither perfect, nor exhaustive, as our nation’s history makes clear. Legislation, court rulings, amendments, lawyers, and “we the people” have built upon those original words across generations to attempt to make the “more perfect Union” more real.

That effort continues today, as contemporary leaders and everyday citizens raise their voices as loud as ever to fulfill the promise of the Constitution. The 2022 Law Day theme—Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change—reminds all of us that defining and refining those words of the Constitution might be our oldest national tradition, and how each of us works-together-toward a more perfect Union.

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.

CONTEST TIMETABLE

January 2022:
Contest Announcement

March 4, 2022:
POSTMARK DEADLINE
Essays must be postmarked on or before this date to be eligible.

April 2022:
Winners notified

May 6, 2022:
Law Day 2022;

Awards presented at the annual Law Day ceremony (more information to be provided).

Please mail or email entries to:

YLD c/o Nicholas Sorensen
414 S White St, 306
Wake Forest, NC 27587
nick.sorensen@hotmail.com

Questions If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Nicholas Sorensen, nick.sorensen@hotmail.com, or Cheyenne Merrigan, cmerrigan@ncbar.org, Communities Manager for the Young Lawyers Division.