

Court Information Release



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Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
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Court Announces Winners of First Law Day Youth Civics Contest

Today the Court and Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association announced the winners of the Law Day Youth Civics Contest, click [here](#) to view winning entries.

6th-8th Grade

1st Place: Chika Nduka
2nd Place: Rika Nishikawa
3rd Place (Tie): Aidan Colón and Ryan Fardy

Honorable mention: Kyra Anne Cominos, Matthew Forbes, Lia Nafe, Evie Skog, Alexander Stamos, Molly Vapensky

9th-12th Grade

1st Place: Malachi Neely
2nd Place: Collin Kenyon
3rd Place: John Valentin

“Thank you to all Northern District of Illinois students who participated in our first Law Day Youth Civics Contest. We are moved by the creative, analytical, and inspiring submissions that demonstrated understanding of the role of courts in our society. We look forward to seeing the contributions these students will make in a world that needs their enthusiasm and talents,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

“It was gratifying to witness the thought and creativity that the contestants put into their submissions,” said Morgan Hirst, President of the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. “Seeing the courts through the eyes of middle and high school students was a reminder that we as attorneys are participants in a justice system that has profound practical and symbolic importance to our fellow citizens in the Northern District of Illinois.”

Northern District of Illinois students enrolled in 6th- 12th grades were invited to submit a video recording which answers the question, “why are the courts important?”

Video were not to exceed two minutes and were judged on how they demonstrated understanding of constitutional principles, clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme, and originality/creativity.

A first (\$500), second (\$250), and third (\$100) place winner were awarded from each grade level cohort (6th-8th grade, 9th-12th grade). Those entries recognized with an honorable mention will receive \$50. The teacher or organization leader (i.e. scout leader or club advisor) who referred winning students to the contest will receive a \$50 Target gift card for classroom or club materials.

Law Day is celebrated on May 1st each year and celebrates the role of law in our society and aims to foster greater understanding of the legal profession.

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