

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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the Northern District of Illinois
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District Court Announces New Law Day Youth Civics Contest

Submissions will be accepted through April 12, 2021

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) are currently accepting submissions for a new Law Day Youth Civics Contest.

As the Chief Judge explained when announcing the contest in February, “The Court welcomes opportunities to engage with young people in this District. This context is one such opportunity, and we hope it will inspire deeper understanding of and greater interest in our justice system,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Students enrolled in 6th- 12th grades are invited to submit a video recording which answers the question, “why are the courts important?” Videos may not exceed two minutes and must be the original work of the student/students.

The contest will run through April 12, 2021. Entries will be judged on how they demonstrate understanding of constitutional principles, clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme, and originality/creativity.

A first (\$500), second (\$250), and third (\$100) place winner will be awarded from each grade level cohort (6th-8th grade, 9th-12th grade). 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.

Winners will be announced the week of May 10, 2021.

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.

The Northern District of Illinois includes the following counties: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, La Salle, Will, Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago.

Contest materials attached.



Dear Educators, Students, Parents, Fans of American Civics, and Aspiring Filmmakers,

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association are sponsoring their inaugural Law Day Youth Civics Contest. 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.

To celebrate Law Day, students enrolled in 6th- 12th grades are invited to submit a video recording which answers the question, “why are the courts important?” Videos may not exceed two minutes and must be the original work of the student/students.

Group entries are permitted, but if selected as a winning entry, only one prize will be awarded to the group. All members of the group must be in the same grade level cohort (6th - 8th or 9th - 12th), and each member must submit an entry form.

Submissions will be accepted Monday, **March 1, 2021 through 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021**. Entries will be judged on how they demonstrate understanding of constitutional principles, clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme, and originality/creativity.

A first (\$500), second (\$250), and third (\$100) place winner will be awarded from each grade level cohort (6th-8th grade, 9th-12th grade). 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.

Winners will be announced the week of May 10, 2021.

The [fillable entry form can be downloaded here](#). [Video entries and entry forms must be submitted here](#).

Missing the submission deadline, providing false or incomplete entry information, not residing within the district are grounds for disqualification. Entries by children, step-children, grandchildren, siblings of employees of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois will not be considered.

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Contest entries may be posted on court websites and materials, in the court history museum, and shared with outside organizations.

For questions, please contact education@ilnd.uscourts.gov

Please forward and share this announcement with other teachers, students, organizations who may be interested.