

## 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**

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

“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 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> 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 March 1, 2021 through March 31, 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 (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 April 26, 2021.

Law Day is celebrated on May 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> 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 (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>), and each member must submit an entry form.

Submissions will be accepted Monday, **March 1, 2021 through 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 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 (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 April 26, 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.

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 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](mailto:education@ilnd.uscourts.gov)

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

# Student Video Contest

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and  
the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Present

**The Law Day 2021 Youth Civics Video Contest**

## Why are the courts important?

### \$500 Cash Prize

**Contest Instructions:** In celebration of Law Day 2021, answer in a video recording the following question: “Why are the courts important?”

**Who May Enter:** The video contest is open to all students who reside in the Northern District of Illinois and are currently in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Length & Format:** Videos may not exceed two minutes. [Submit your video and entry from here](#). Do not include your name or school name in your video.

**Submission Deadline:** Your video and [entry form](#) must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31st.

**Awards:** 6th-8th grades - 1st place \$500, 2nd place \$250 and 3rd place \$100  
9th-12th grades - 1st place \$500, 2nd place \$250 and 3rd place \$100  
Teachers or organization leaders of winning students will receive a \$50 Target gift card.



**Judging:** Entries will be judged on the following criteria: Understanding of constitutional principles, clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme, originality/creativity

**Eligibility:** Missing the submission deadline, providing false or incomplete entry information, not residing within the district are grounds for disqualification. All entries must be the original work of the student(s).

**Questions:** [Education@ilnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Education@ilnd.uscourts.gov)