

2024 Theme: “Voices of Democracy”

This year’s theme recognizes that in democracies, the people rule. For nearly 250 years, Americans have expressed their political views and wishes by speaking up for fundamental rights, using the rule of law to enact positive societal changes, and voting in elections. However, individuals, nations, and democracies are never perfect. As you consider your entry in regard to this year’s theme, answer ONE of the following questions:

- 1) In 2024, the United States will hold its 60th presidential election. The Electoral College is a critical part of the presidential election process. Make an argument for why the Electoral College does or does not represent the voice of the American people.
- 2) Which has been most influential voice in shaping democracy throughout history: social groups, institutions, or individual leaders? Make an argument for which you believe has had the biggest impact on expanding civic participation, incorporating diverse voices, and preserving democracy via individual or collective behaviors.
- 3) Our country’s motto is “e pluribus unum” (out of many, one). Civic participation by citizens from diverse backgrounds who have a wide range of perspectives, beliefs and ideas is a necessary and desirable aspect of a democratic society. “Toxic polarization,” however, is destructive and limits our ability to work together in a civil manner toward common ground. Suggest strategies to limit the impact of “toxic polarization” and to help people engage in productive civil discourse.

Submission Deadline

Entries must be received at 119 South College Street, Washington, PA 15301 or via kathy@washcobar.org, no later than **4pm, April 17, 2024.**

Contest Judging

Prizes awarded for those entries that are, in relation to all received, the most effective in expressing the Law Day theme and on their quality, originality, and creativity. Judges’ decisions are final. Sponsors reserve the right to limit or expand prizes depending on the #/quality of submissions received.

Submission Guidelines — All Contests

ALL entries must be marked with entrant name and include a contact EMAIL.

Self-submitted entries must include grade/school and **email**. School-submitted entries must include school mailing address and teacher’s **email**. Winning entries will be identified only by name, grade year & school. Entry must have been created without the use of any A.I. assistance and solely by entrant(s), who must own all rights to reproduce and/or publish entry in any medium without restriction. An entry cannot be submitted to more than one contest category. **One entry per person per contest category.**

Sponsors reserve right to display/reproduce entries in Law Day promotions.

Explore the theme: lawday.org

Contact us about classroom speakers on law-related topics!

Grades 2-5 Bookmark Contest

Format: Size is 8.5 inches by 2.75 inches (tip: fold letter-size paper into fourths). Artwork may be vertical or horizontal and must be **only** on one side with full entrant information CLEARLY PRINTED on the **back**. Use any one-dimensional medium (pencil, ink, crayon, paint, collage, etc); do **not** attach 2-D elements (tassels, buttons, etc.). Neatness, spelling, theme/accuracy, and creativity considered.

Prizes: \$50 ~ First place
\$40 ~ Second Place
\$30 ~ Third Place
\$25 ~ Fourth Place
\$20 ~ Fifth Place
\$15 ~ Sixth Place

Grades 6-12 Editorial Essay Contest

Format: 500-word (max.), **editorial-style essay with a clear point-of-view/opinion about an issue related to the law day theme**, typed, single-spaced, 1 page with word count and entrant info (name, grade, school, email, and, if any, teacher) at the top of page (no cover sheet). Style, content, grammar, spelling, and punctuation considered, as well as originality, creativity, and relevance to theme.

Prizes: \$225 ~ First Place
\$150 ~ Second Place
\$100 ~ Third Place

Note: Submit essays by mail, fax to 724-225-8345 or email to kathy@washcobar.org.

Grades 6-12 Creative Arts Contest

Format: Visual, electronic and creative arts including painting, collage, fabric, photography, sculpture, film/video, poetry, song, etc.; no powerpoints unless there is a creative/artistic component. Entry must include a **descriptive title** and include a 140-word (max.) written statement of entry’s relevance to the law day theme.

Prizes: \$225 ~ First Place
\$150 ~ Second Place
\$100 ~ Third Place

Note: group entries permitted (prize money split). Submit video/electronic entries on USB drive in a standard format (.mov, .wmv, .mpg) or by link to an online file to kathy@washcobar.org, and include entry’s title and written statement in body of email.

Grades 6-12/Adults Peeps Diorama Contest



Format: Create a box diorama* using Peeps treats as characters plus other 2-D and 3-D decorative elements. **May use any size box to “frame”/contain diorama within 5 “walls” (top, bottom, sides, back), but entry must be represented in ONE unaltered photo (no digital editing).** Entry must include a **descriptive title** and a 140-word (max.) written statement of entry’s relevance to law day theme.

Prizes (Grades 6-12): \$225 ~ 1st Place
\$150 ~ 2nd Place
\$100 ~ 3rd Place

Prizes (Adults; groups that incl. at least 1 adult): \$200 to winner’s charity of choice

Note: group entries permitted (prize money split). **Email one unaltered photo** of entry (.jpg format), to kathy@washcobar.org, and include entry’s title and written statement in body of email.

Classroom Resources

Email us at wcba@washcobar.org to schedule in-classroom visits by lawyers to present Law Day, Constitution Day, "Time to Adult! Turning 18: Legal Issues in the Real World" and other law-related programs

Law Day Celebration

Law Day awards presented at 6pm, on May 1 at Public Law Day Celebration.



Law Day Resources

Lesson plans for Law Day activities can be found at www.lawday.org

Law Day U.S.A.

Established in 1958 by President Eisenhower to strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law.

Citizenship Project Contest

Format: Entry must include a 250-300 word description of Citizenship Project, which must have been conducted at least in part within the past 18 months. Attach photos, supporting documents (5 pgs max). If project was conducted under the auspices of a school/college or organization, a letter of support from that entity must be attached and include info about project's impact and results. Include cover sheet with project name; and names, ages, addresses of all eligible participants and/or entities.

Eligibility: Washington Co. residents or group consisting primarily of Wash. Co. residents, or an organization with its primary office address in Washington County.

Prize: \$250 awarded to the charity (501c3 non-profit organization) of the winner's choice.

Law Day Contests Grades 2-12 & Adults

**Deadline
April 17**

**Washington
County Bar
Association,
Washington
County Bar
Foundation
and the
Observer-
Reporter**