2021 Law Day Theme

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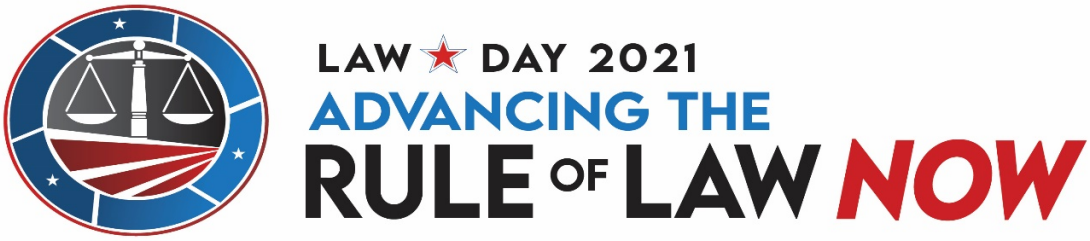

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South Carolina Bar

Senior Lawyers Division

Statewide Law Day Essay Contest

2021 Awards Packet

Open to all 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Grade Public School, Private School, and Homeschooled Students

THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S LAW DAY 2021 THEME

Advancing the Rule of Law *NOW*

The Law Day 2021 theme is "Advancing the Rule of Law *NOW*". The rule of law is a set of principles, or ideals, for ensuring an orderly and just society. Many countries throughout the world strive to uphold the rule of law where no one is above the law, everyone is treated equally under the law, everyone is held accountable to the same laws, there are clear and fair processes for enforcing laws, there is an independent judiciary, and human rights are guaranteed for all.

What Does the Rule of Law mean?

- The same laws apply to everyone.
- Everyone is treated equally under the law.
- Government power is bound by law.
- Everyone has rights and responsibilities.
- Laws are shared openly and enforced fairly.
- The judiciary is independent and judges are fair and impartial.

Why Does the Rule of Law matter?

- It ensures a fair and just society.

What should the Rule of Law guarantee?

- Laws that are certain, predictable and created openly.
- The same laws apply to everyone.
- People have the right to engage with lawmakers.
- People have access to the courts to settle disputes.
- Human rights are guaranteed for all.

WHAT IS LAW DAY?

Established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, Law Day celebrates the American heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law. In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1st as the official date for celebrating Law Day. Every year, Law Day provides legal professionals and others with opportunities to help students and the public understand how the law protects our freedoms.

2021 LAW DAY ESSAY TOPIC INTRODUCTION

When announcing the 2021 Law Day Theme, Patricia Lee Refo, American Bar Association President, stated the following:

> "The rule of law—the idea that no one is above the law and everyone is treated equally under the law—ensures a just and orderly society. Countries around the world strive to uphold the rule of law so that everyone – regardless of wealth or power – is accountable, and everyone even the poorest and least powerful among us – has legally recognized rights. As Thomas Paine said, "In America, law is king." Even as we struggle through a public health crisis and confront historical injustices, one thing is certain: The rule of law is the bedrock of American rights and liberties. Advancing the rule of law – especially in times of change or unrest – requires commitment and dedication.
>
> This year's Law Day theme – Advancing the Rule of Law *NOW* – reminds us that "we the people" must promote the rule of law to protect rights, champion justice and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our future generations."

2021 LAW DAY ESSAY TOPIC

Each student participant must write an essay of 1,000 words or less on this topic:

Explain how the rule of law, the authority and influence of law in society, is important to the American founding principal that all men are created equal.

The following discussion points have been provided as a suggested approach; however, they are not mandatory, and creativity is encouraged:

- Explain or give examples of how "freedom of the press" is considered a rule of law.
- Explain or give examples of how the rule of law implies that everybody is equal in the eyes of the law.
- Explain or give examples of how the rule of law forms a foundation for how we act as a nation.

ESSAY DIRECTIONS

Each essay writer is required to adhere to the following:

1) Submit a typewritten essay in a 12-point font and include all attached documents:

    - The student's name, home address, home phone number, and grade level.
    - Essay title.
    - School name, address, phone number, and educator's name (if applicable).
    - Name of local newspaper(s).
    - Documentation of all research on the enclosed Works Cited page or an attached sheet (if applicable).

2) Forward all to an English Language Arts (ELA) or Social Studies (SS) teacher to submit the given essays and application forms.

3) **DO NOT PUT THE STUDENT'S NAME ON THE ESSAY ITSELF.**

SELECTION CRITERIA

Each English Language Arts and/or Social Studies teacher may submit two (2) essays per grade level from his or her respective school for consideration for the pre-selection judging. However, more than (2) essays may be submitted if it is the teacher's opinion that additional essays are worthy of consideration. The essays will be read and assessed by Judge Hayes and members of the South Carolina Circuit Court Judges Association. The overall winner, his family, and teacher will be invited to the Annual State Bar Association Convention where the student will be recognized.

All public school, private school and home-schooled participants' essays must be submitted to Judge Mark Hayes by **noon** on **Friday, June 4th, 2021**. All essays along with the appropriate cover sheets are to be submitted to the following address:

Judge J. Mark Hayes, II
Spartanburg County Courthouse
180 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Office: (864) 562-4144 Fax: (864) 562-4142

AWARDS

9th Grade	$ 500
10th Grade	$ 500
11th Grade	$ 500
12th Grade	$ 500
Overall Winner	$1,000

Cash awards, medals and certificates will be presented to the recipients. Winning essays may be submitted to the local newspaper for publication and also to other organizations for possible publication and release to the general public.

ESSAYS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Students from participating schools will submit essays to a school official (teacher, administrator, etc.) for pre-selection.

School submissions should include:

1) Essays and corresponding entry forms, including any source citations and parental release forms (if applicable);

2) A list of all other students who prepared essays for this contest. (Judge Hayes would like to recognize the efforts of all participants).

ESSAYS FROM STUDENTS WHOSE SCHOOLS ARE NOT PARTICIPATING OR WHO ARE HOME-SCHOOLED

Students whose schools are not participating or who are not affiliated with a school may send entries directly to Judge Hayes for consideration.

1) Essays and corresponding entry forms, including any source citations and parental release forms (if applicable);

2) A student who is affiliated with a non-participating school or class must provide the school's name, address, telephone number, and indicate on the form that the school or class is not participating.

Essay Title:_____ Entry #: _____

2021 Law Day Essay Contest Judging Criteria

ESSAY THEME:
Advancing the Rule of Law *NOW*

Assign a point value (1 – 10) to each of the following questions. One point indicates the lowest mark and 10, the highest.

Structure/Content

_____ Does the essay contain an introduction, a descriptive body and a conclusion?

_____ Is the data correct and in a clear and logical and/or sequential order?

_____ Does the essay exhibit good language skills: proper spelling, syntax and grammar?

_____ Are the references to sources (Constitution, Bill of Rights, cases, etc.) correct?

Creativity/Originality

_____ Does the essay have some sense of originality and creativity?

_____ Are the ideas good and well-developed?

_____ Does the essay creatively develop the theme and does not deviate?

_____ Does the essay contain the writer's personal views and comments?

General Appearance

_____ Is the format neat/typed or written legibly?

_____ Is the cover sheet attached and correct?

_____ Total Points (100 points maximum)

COVER SHEET

2021 Law Day Essay Contest

DEADLINE: June 4th, 2021 AT 12:00 NOON

A copy of this sheet must accompany each essay submitted in the 2021 Law Day Essay Contest. All of the information on this sheet must be completed and must not appear on the essay.

Entry Number: _____ (will be assigned by Law Day Essay Contest Committee)

Please PRINT all information in blue ink.

Grade Category: Grade 9_____ Grade 10_____ Grade 11_____ Grade 12_____

ESSAY TITLE: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Address:

_____
(Street/PO Box) City State Zip

Student's Phone Number (_____) _____ Student's Email Address:_____

Parent(s) Name:_____

School: _____

School Address:

_____
(Street/PO Box) City State Zip

Name of Teacher Submitting Essay: _____

Teacher's E-mail: _____

Name of Local Newspaper: _____

Number of Words: _____ (not to exceed 1,000) Number of Pages: _____

First Five Words of Essay:_____

Mail the completed cover sheet ATTACHED to your essay to:

Judge Mark Hayes
180 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg County Courthouse
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Office: (864) 562-4144 Fax: (864)562-4142

Essay Title:_____ **Entry #:** _____

Academic/Extracurricular Activities

ESSAY THEME:
Advancing the Rule of Law *NOW*

Please list any of the student's honors, awards, or extracurricular activities that can be used when publishing the student's essay:

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Please list the student's academic and vocational goals after graduation (i.e. colleges, military, law enforcement, doctor, lawyer, etc.):

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