2023 Law Day Theme

THE HONORABLE J. MARK HAYES, II

Statewide Law Day Essay Contest

SPONSORED BY THE SC BAR SENIOR LAWYERS DIVISION

2023 Awards Packet

Open to all 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Grade Public, Private, and Homeschooled Students
THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION’S LAW DAY 2023 THEME

The 2023 Law Day theme will be “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.” We invite all the people of the United States to join us in rebuilding trust in our institutions, respect for one another, and our willingness to collaborate to address the challenges that face our nation.

In recent years, tensions in our democratic system have revealed deep divisions in American society. These divisions are aggravated by incivility in public discourse and insufficient understanding among many people about the Constitution and the way American government works. Together, however, we can collaborate to overcome our differences, resolve our disputes, and preserve our democracy and republic. To that end, we call on members of the legal profession to lead the way in promoting civics, civility, and collaboration—the cornerstones of our democracy.

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.

2023 LAW DAY ESSAY TOPIC INTRODUCTION

When announcing the 2023 Law Day Theme, Deborah Enix-Ross, American Bar Association President, stated the following:

“President Dwight Eisenhower established the first Law Day in 1958 as a national observance to reaffirm government under the rule of law. In the past 65 years, the American Bar Association has been a leading promoter of Law Day – advocating for civic education and a better understanding of the rule of law. To continue that tradition, I am pleased to announce that the 2023 Law Day theme is “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.” In recent years, tensions in our democratic system have revealed deep social divisions over many issues – including voting rights, climate change, and reproductive rights, to name just a few. These divisions are aggravated by incivility in public discourse and a general lack of knowledge about our Constitution. Together, however, we can collaborate to overcome our differences, resolve our disputes, and preserve our democracy and republic. I urge all members of the legal profession to lead the way in promoting civics, civility, and collaboration – the cornerstones of our democracy. I invite all the people of the United States to join us in rebuilding trust in our institutions, and respect for one another. Through collaboration, we can address the challenges that face our nation. To learn more about Law Day and to join us in our efforts to promote the Cornerstones of Democracy, visit lawday.org. Thank you.”
2023 LAW DAY ESSAY TOPIC

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

- Explain civics (the study of the rights and duties of citizenship) and why did the founding fathers believe them to be important to the success of the American democratic experiment in self-governance?

Suggested Approaches (these are only suggestions; the student is encouraged to be creative to develop their own approach to the topic).

- Why is incivility dangerous to the functioning of a free republic?

- In a republic, no one person has absolute power. Therefore, explain why is it important for citizens with differing views to collaborate to support the rule of law?

- Why is it important for citizens to understand how the Constitution operates as a guardrail and a pathway for the government to achieve equal justice under the law for all?

- Explain why civics, civility, and collaboration are considered cornerstones of democracy?

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, their family, and teacher will be invited to the South Carolina Bar Annual 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 2nd, 2023. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>$ 500</td>
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<td>10th</td>
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<td>11th</td>
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<td>Overall</td>
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Cash awards, medals and certificates will be presented to the recipients. Winning essays may be submitted to the newspaper for publication and also to other organizations for possible publication and release to the general public. By entering the essay contest, your consent is assumed for publication of your winning essay, your name, teacher, and school. If you do not wish for your winning essay and name to be published, please “x” the box below and return this page when submitting your essay to Judge Hayes. The Statewide Law Day Essay Contest is sponsored by the SC Bar Senior Lawyers Division.

☐ I do not wish for my essay or name to be released to the 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 #: __________

2023 Law Day Essay Contest Judging Criteria

Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration

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)
The Honorable J. Mark Hayes, II. Law Day Essay Contest 2023 Packet
Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration

Cover Sheet

2023 Law Day Essay Contest
Deadline: June 2nd, 2023, at 12:00 NOON

A copy of this sheet must accompany each essay submitted in the 2023 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/Contact/Email Address: _____________________________

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:**
**Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration**

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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