



March 11, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Principals and Social Studies Department Chairpersons
From: Supreme Court Staff Attorney
Subject: 2014 Law Day Essay Contest

Law Week 2014 will be celebrated from April 25 – May 4, 2014, and the Judiciary of Guam, the District Court of Guam and the Guam Bar Association have partnered to sponsor the annual Law Day Essay Contest. The essay contest allows students to recognize the importance of law in our society.

This year's Law Day theme, "**American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters,**" calls on us to reflect on the importance of a citizen's right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring that we all have the opportunity to participate in our democracy.

Attached is a flyer containing the essay questions. Teachers may wish to incorporate the contest into the class curriculum, either for a grade or for extra credit. Please have the students complete the entry form and attach it to the essay. The deadline to submit the entries is **Friday, April 11, 2014**. If you have any questions, please contact me at 475-3395 or by email at eeschbach@guamsupremecourt.com.

Thank you, and I look forward to your school's participation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erica Eschbach".

ERICA ESCHBACH

Attachment: *2014 Law Day Essay Contest Flyer*

2014 LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST

American Democracy and
the Rule of Law:

WHY EVERY
OTE
MATTERS

In recognition of Law Day, the Judiciary of Guam, the District Court of Guam, and the Guam Bar Association are sponsoring the annual Law Day Essay Contest.

What is Law Day?

Law Day is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that we all share.

2014 Law Day Theme:

American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters

As we approach the 50th anniversaries of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 2014 Law Day theme, American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters, calls on us to reflect on the importance of a citizen's right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring that we all have the opportunity to participate in our democracy.

To enter, students must write an essay addressing the following questions:

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd U.S. President, once said, "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do that is by not voting at all."

1. **What does this quote mean to you?**
2. **Why is it important for every citizen to exercise his or her right to vote?**
3. **Why is it important to be aware of and informed about issues and candidates before you vote?**

Contest Rules:

- **Students from 6th-8th grade are eligible to participate.**
- **Essays must address the questions above.**
- **Essays must be no more than 750 words, typewritten, and double-spaced.**
- **Essays must be the student's original work.**



Prizes: (prizes donated by Guam Law Library)

First Place – Kindle Fire

Second Place – \$100 Cash

Third Place – \$50 Cash

**Deadline:
Friday, April 11, 2014**

Entries must be delivered to the Supreme Court of Guam, 3rd Floor, Guam Judicial Center.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____ Teacher: _____

Certification of Student:

I am submitting an original essay to the 2014 Law Day Essay Contest. I certify that this essay is my own work. I understand that my essay will not be returned and may be used in activities publicizing the contest.

Signature