

Law Day 2017 Essay Contest

THE 14TH AMENDMENT TRANSFORMING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY



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.

The 2017 Law Day Theme

The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy

This year's theme provides the opportunity to explore the many ways that the 14th Amendment has reshaped American law and society. Through its Citizenship, Due Process and Equal Protection clauses, this transformative amendment advanced the rights of all Americans. It also played a pivotal role in extending the reach of the Bill of Rights to the states. Ratified during Reconstruction a century and a half ago, the 14th Amendment serves as the cornerstone of landmark civil rights legislation, the foundation for numerous federal court decisions protecting fundamental rights, and a source of inspiration for all those who advocate for equal justice under law.

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

The Fourteenth Amendment has, among others, three important clauses, or portions: the Citizenship Clause, the Due Process Clause, and the Equal Protection Clause.

1. Explain each clause, what it means, and why it was part of the Fourteenth Amendment.
2. Choose one clause that you think is particularly important and explain why.

Contest Rules:

- Students from 9th-12th grade are eligible to participate.
- Essays must address the questions above.
- Essays must be no more than 1,000 words, typewritten, and double-spaced.
- Essays must be the student's original work.

Prizes:

First Place – \$300 Cash

Second Place – \$200 Cash

Third Place – \$100 Cash

Deadline: Friday, April 21, 2017

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

_____ STUDENT NAME	
_____ SCHOOL	
_____ TEACHER	
_____ GRADE	_____ TEACHER'S EMAIL
<i>Certification of Student:</i> I am submitting an original essay to the Law Day 2017 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	