



MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals and Social Studies Department Chairpersons

FROM: Erica Eschbach
Staff Attorney
Supreme Court of Guam

SUBJECT: 2024 Law Month Essay Contest

DATE: April 2, 2024

May 1 of every year marks Law Day, a day in which the nation celebrates the rule of law. For the past several years, the Judiciary of Guam, the District Court of Guam, and the Guam Bar Association have partnered to sponsor Law Month, hosting outreach events that underscore how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms we all share. Our Law Month programming has been nationally recognized as among the best in the nation, having earned the American Bar Association's Law Day Outstanding Activity Award for Best Public Program ten times in the last sixteen years.

The 2024 Law Month theme *"Voices of Democracy"* recognizes that in democracies, the people rule. For nearly 250 years, Americans have expressed their political views and wishes by speaking their minds and voting in elections. In this way, Americans ensure that our government remains responsive to the wishes of the people.

Attached is a flyer for the annual Law Month Essay Contest. 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 entries is **Friday, April 26, 2024**. Students are encouraged to submit their essays via email. If you have any questions, please contact me at (671) 475-3395 or email eeschbach@guamcourts.gov.

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



LAW MONTH 2024 ESSAY CONTEST

GRADES 9-12

In recognition of Law Month, the Judiciary of Guam, District Court of Guam, and the Guam Bar Association are sponsoring an Essay Contest to allow students to recognize the importance of law in our society.

Voices of Democracy

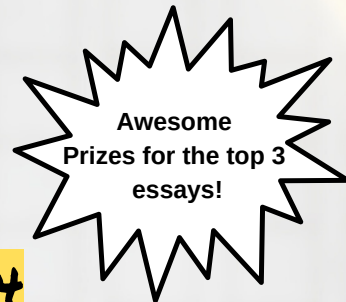
The 2024 Law Month theme “Voices of Democracy” recognizes that in democracies, the people rule. For nearly 250 years, Americans have expressed their political views and wishes by speaking their minds and voting in elections. In this way, Americans ensure that our government remains responsive to the wishes of the people.

TO ENTER, STUDENTS MUST WRITE AN ESSAY ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

The minimum voting age in Guam is 18 years old. However, even when they are too young to vote, young people have found meaningful ways to engage in the political sphere. Explore the role of youth activism in promoting democracy and the rule of law. Consider questions like: How can young people influence policy and create positive change in their communities? What issues do young people care most about in this upcoming election? Why is it important that young people are educated on politics and the electoral process? Why is it important for young people to exercise their right to vote once they reach voting age?

CONTEST RULES

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



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

Entries must be emailed to eeschbach@guamcourts.gov or delivered to the Supreme Court of Guam, 3rd Floor, Guam Judicial Center.

PRIZES COURTESY OF



Student's Name: _____

Certification of Student:

School: _____

I am submitting an original essay to the Law Month 2024 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.

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Signature