

19th Judicial Circuit Court



ABA

★Law Day 2026

Rule of Law and the American Dream

Essay Contest

WHO: Any student in **Grades 8th, 11th, and 12th** enrolled in a public, parochial or private school, or anyone receiving home schooling.

WHEN: The contest will open on **March 2nd, 2026**, and will close on **April 3rd, 2026**.

WHERE: Please email all entries (in Word or PDF format) by **Friday, April 3rd, 2026**, to:

CourtsOutreach@lakecountyil.gov

Any entries emailed after April 3rd, 2026, will not be accepted.

A first-place winner will be selected from each grade level. The 19th Judicial Circuit will contact the student's teacher or parent(s) after the winners are selected. There will be an Awards Ceremony for winners.

CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. The essay may be typed onto standard 8 1/2 x 11 copy paper, or legibly handwritten on lined notebook paper, with a limit of 500 words.
2. The essay must be the exclusive work of the student entering the contest and may be done at school or at home. Duplicate entries or "shared" entries will not be accepted.
3. Essays must be the original work of the students. Plagiarized works or essays composed using Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be disqualified.
4. The essay must represent our 2026 Law Day theme: **"The Rule of Law and the American Dream"**. For inspiration on composing your essay, we suggest visiting The American Bar Association's website at: [Law Day 2026](#)
5. Judging will be based on content, clarity of expression, punctuation, grammar, spelling, and originality.
6. Each essay submitted **must** contain the following information on a cover sheet sent with the essay (a pre-made label is below):

Student Name (First & Last) _____

School _____

Grade _____

Teacher or Parent name _____

Teacher or Parent telephone number _____

Teacher or Parent email address _____

*Please substitute parent's name, home address, phone number, and email address if homeschooled or activity was completed at home.

7. Any entries that do not follow the above guidelines may be disqualified.

Please contact us at CourtsOutreach@lakecountyil.gov or 847-377-3600 with any questions.
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