

19th Judicial Circuit Court



ABA

★Law Day 2026

Rule of Law and the American Dream

NEW Poetry Contest!

WHO: Any student in Grades 7th, 9th, and 10th 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 poem may be typed onto standard 8 1/2 x 11 copy paper or legibly handwritten on lined notebook paper.
2. Poems may be any style of poetry (example: Acrostic, Sonnet, etc.) or free verse. Rhyming is not required.
3. The poem must be 10-30 lines. The number of words in a line does not matter.
4. The poem must be the original/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.
5. Plagiarized works or poems composed using Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be disqualified.
6. The poem must represent our 2026 Law Day theme: "**The Rule of Law and the American Dream**". For inspiration on composing your poem and what Rule of Law and the American Dream means, we suggest visiting The American Bar Association's website at: [Law Day 2026](#)
7. Judging will be based on content, clarity of expression, punctuation, grammar, spelling, and originality.
8. Each submitted must contain the following information on a cover sheet sent with the poem (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.**

9. 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.
19th Judicial Circuit Court Law Day