

LAW DAY 2021

On behalf of the Public Outreach Committee of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, I cordially invite the children of your school to help us celebrate Law Day 2021 by creating artwork relating to one of this year's themes. We have two themes this year, because we were unable to conduct our usual Law Day programs last year due to COVID.

THEME #1: "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100"

2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment, which guarantees that the right of citizens to vote is not denied or limited by the United States or any state on account of sex. Passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, 72 years after the struggle for women's suffrage began. One hundred years after women were granted this most basic right of citizenship, three women sit on the United States Supreme Court, and a woman is now Vice President of the United States. Much progress has been made in ensuring that women's voices are heard in our democracy, and the goal of equality continues to be an important one.

THEME #2: "Advancing the Rule of Law"

The "rule of law" is a set of principles, or ideals, designed to ensure an orderly and just society. These principles are intended to create a system in which no one is above the law, everyone is treated equally under the law, everyone is held accountable to the same laws, there are clear and fair processes for enforcing law, there is an independent judiciary, and human rights are guaranteed for all. Even established democracies like the United States still struggle to ensure that the rule of law is honored and advanced. Important aspects of the rule of law that relate to the Court system include a commitment by judges to apply the law to everyone fairly; making the law clear and legal proceedings transparent; and balancing individual rights against the safety of others.

For 2021, all Law Day activities will be conducted virtually.

Our goal is to help children and the public better understand the importance the law has in our daily lives and the role the legal system, including the courts, plays in protecting the rights we cherish, which include equal protection of the laws, the right not to be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, and the freedoms of speech, the press, and religion. **To that end, we ask the students participating in the art exhibit to create a piece of art relating to either of the two themes for this year. Your school may choose to select one theme for all children, or allow children to explore either or both themes.**

A Certificate of Recognition will be awarded to all artists. Children in grades 3-8 are invited to participate. Artwork may be in the form of drawings, photographs, digital photographs, digital art forms, posters or a similar medium. The poster size should be 8" x 11" or larger. All entries will be on display in the Federal Courthouses through the month of May so they can be viewed by the general public as well as courthouse employees. Digital entries will be displayed during an evening Zoom session for artists and their families.

By no later than **MAY 3, 2021 (or a date mutually agreeable)**, please submit all artwork to Public_Outreach@ctd.uscourts.gov, or submissions may be mailed to the U.S. District Court, Office of the Clerk, Attention Public Outreach Committee, 141 Church Street, New Haven, CT.

We appreciate your participation and hope it is a rewarding experience for your students.

Sincerely,

Sarah A. L. Merriam
United States Magistrate Judge