



LAW DAY 2023

What is Law Day?

Law Day, held annually on May 1, is a national day set aside to celebrate the role of law in our society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession.

The Public Outreach Committee of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut invites schools to participate in any of the following Law Day activities.

Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration

In recent years, tensions in our democratic system have revealed deep divisions in American society. Together we can collaborate to overcome our differences, resolve our disputes, and preserve our democracy and republic. Our goal is to help students 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. For 2023, you have the option for in-person or virtual Law Day activities.

- **READ A PICTURE BOOK TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS:** A judge can visit an elementary school class via Zoom or in-person to read a picture book about the Constitution. Examples of such books are: *We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States* by David Catrow (5-8 year olds); *Democracy for Dinosaurs* by Laurie Krasny Brown (4-8 year olds); and *What Can a Citizen Do?* by Dave Eggers (Grades K-2).
- **JUDGE/ATTORNEY GUEST SPEAKER:** The court invites middle and high school students to engage in a conversation with a federal judge or attorney about the Law Day theme: *Civics, Civility, and Collaboration in the Courtroom: Judicial Independence*. See Exh. A: Handout
- **ARTWORK CONTEST:** The court invites elementary through high school students to submit artwork and photographs depicting what this year's Law Day theme means to them. The court will display some artwork in the courthouse and may display digital artwork and photography during a Zoom session. Certificates and/or prizes will be awarded. See Exh. B: 2023 Artwork Contest Flyer
- **ESSAY CONTEST:** The court invites middle or high school students to submit short essays. This year's essay contest is: *The Importance of Civics, Civility, and Collaboration in a Democracy*. Certificates and/or prizes may be awarded. See Exh. C: 2023 Essay Contest Flyer.

EXHIBIT A



LAW DAY 2023
Cornerstones of Democracy:
Civics, Civility, and Collaboration

What Makes a Good Judge?

Directions

Assume you are appointed to a committee to determine what qualities should be used in selecting judges in your state. Review the list of qualities provided below the chart and categorize them under the most appropriate heading. Following the activity, develop a definition for a “good” judge.

Qualities to Consider in a Judge

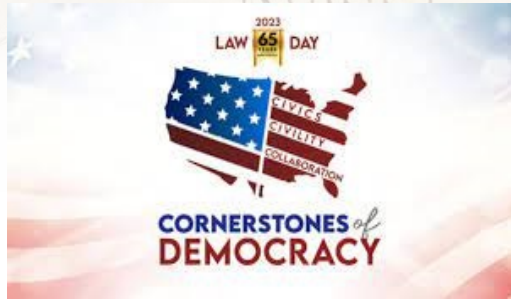
ESSENTIAL & FORMAL REQUIREMENTS	DESIRABLE QUALITIES	UNDESIRABLE QUALITIES	UNNECESSARY QUALITIES

Qualities:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressive • Business background • Bilingual • Brilliant mind • Civil right activist • Clear thinker • Collegial • Concise writer • Conservative • Controversial • Defense-oriented • Determined • Democrat • Distinguished lawyer • DWI conviction • Eminent legal scholar • Ethnic minority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair • Family-oriented • Female feminist • Follows party line • Good campaigner • Good fundraiser • Good health • Good looking • Held public office • Honest • Humane • Impartial • Independent thinker • Middle of the road • Member of a gender specific group • Old and wise • Opposes higher taxes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial experience • Liberal • Lobbyist • Loyal • Male • Mediator • Opposes school prayer • Pro-death penalty • Pro-environment • Prosecution-oriented • Radical • Religious background • Religious risk-taker • Rural background • Self-reliant • Service to the public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single parent • Strict constructionist • Strong communicator • Supports welfare • Tough on crime • Traditional • Trial attorney • Trustworthy • U.S. citizen • Well-educated • Youthful |
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EXHIBIT B

2023 LAW DAY ARTWORK CONTEST



The Public Outreach Committee of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut cordially invites students to help us celebrate Law Day 2023 by creating artwork relating to this year's theme:

Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration

In recent years, tensions in our democratic system have revealed deep divisions in American society. These divisions are aggravated by incivility in public discourse and insufficient understanding among many people about the Constitution and the way American government works. Together, however, we can collaborate to overcome our differences, resolve our disputes, and preserve our democracy and republic.

Our goal is to help students 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 this year's theme. You can be as creative as you would like but some suggestions to consider are as follows:

- (1) Illustrate or depict what society might look like if as citizens we did not perform our "civic duties";
- (2) Illustrate or depict the role that courts play in the community; or
- (3) Create an advertisement that expresses the importance of civics education, performing our civic duties and being an informed citizen.

A Certificate of Recognition will be awarded to all artists. Students in grades 3-12 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 8.5" x 11" or larger. All entries will be on display in the federal courthouses in New Haven, Hartford, and Bridgeport through the month of May, so they can be viewed by the general public, as well as courthouse employees. Digital entries may be displayed during a Zoom session for artists and their families.

By no later than **May 2, 2023**, please submit all artwork to Public_Outreach@ctd.uscourts.gov, or submissions may be mailed to:

U.S. District Court, Office of the Clerk
Attn: Public Outreach Committee
141 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

EXHIBIT C

We the People

2023 Law Day Essay Contest



The Public Outreach Committee of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut cordially invites students to help us celebrate Law Day 2023 by creating artwork relating to this year's theme:

The Importance of Civics, Civility, and Collaboration in a Democracy

In recent years, tensions in our democratic system have revealed deep social divisions over many issues – including voting rights, climate change, and reproductive rights, to name just a few. These divisions are aggravated by incivility in public discourse and a general lack of knowledge about our Constitution. Together, however, we can collaborate to overcome our differences, resolve our disputes, and preserve our democracy and republic. This year's Law Day theme invites all the people of the United States to join together in rebuilding trust in our institutions, and respect for one another. Through collaboration, we can address the challenges that face our nation.

All entries shall reflect a student's interpretation of the Law Day 2023 theme by responding to the following two questions:

- Why are civics, civility, and collaboration considered cornerstones of democracy?
- Why is it important for citizens with differing views to collaborate to support the rule of law?
(Please feel free to include personal experiences.)

ESSAY DIRECTIONS

To enter, write an essay of 500 words or less that addresses this year's theme.

- Essays should be typed or handwritten in ink.
- When you are ready to submit, attach a cover sheet that includes a number assigned to the student, the student's school, grade, and teacher.
- Do not include your name on the essay.
- Entries will be judged on accuracy of information, clarity of expression, content, and originality.
- Essays with the attached cover sheet should be emailed to Public_Outreach@ctd.uscourts.gov by **May 2, 2023**.