



Deadline - May 29, 2009

Top three entries in each category will receive awards for:

1st Place - \$1000

2nd Place - \$500

3rd Place - \$250

Awards will be distributed at a reception in Albuquerque on June 29, 2009. Winners will receive per diem for gas, meals and lodging for student and parents to attend the reception.

In addition to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards, there will be 6 Honorable Mention non-monetary awards in each contest. Honorable Mention certificates will be distributed at the reception, and recipients, family and teachers are encouraged to attend. However, no travel expenses will be provided.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries from each category will be displayed at one of the three divisional courthouses in the District of New Mexico. After the exhibit period, artwork will be returned to the student.



U.S. District Court
333 Lomas Blvd. N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

U.S. District Court
District of New Mexico
&
New Mexico Federal Bar Association

2009 Law Day Art & Essay Contest



A Legacy of Liberty -
The Choice is Yours

The U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico and the New Mexico Federal Bar Association are hosting a 2009 Law Day Art and Essay Contest. The theme of this year's contest is "A Legacy of Liberty - The Choice is Yours." The contest is open to New Mexico public high school students, grades 9-12.

This year's Law Day celebrates the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, who, for many, fostered the idea of liberty and justice for *all*. A general definition of liberty is the freedom to choose or act according to an individual's own will, and Lincoln believed all Americans should enjoy that freedom. But Lincoln also knew that freedom to choose comes with great responsibility. He understood that to create a Legacy of Liberty, one must accept responsibility for one's choices and understand the consequences of one's actions. Only in doing so can one truly be free.



Entry forms for each contest are available through local high schools or may be downloaded from the U.S. District Court's website at www.nmcourt.fed.us. All entries must be received at the Pete V. Domenici Courthouse in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by May 29, 2009. The winning entries from each category will be displayed at the U.S. District courthouses in each of the district divisional offices in Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe.

If you would like more information regarding these contests, please contact Law Day Contest Committee members Matthew Zehm, 505-348-2058, Pat Zold, 505-992-3811, or Lydia Piper, 505-348-2088, or you may email us at lawdaycontests@nmcourt.fed.us.

General Contest Rules

(For more detailed guidelines, please see contest Rules and Guidelines on the District Court Web Page at www.nmcourt.fed.us)

ART CONTEST

- ★ Contest is open to 9th - 12th grade students currently attending a New Mexico public high school.
- ★ Art must be 2-dimensional and no larger than 20" x 24." Students may use any medium (paint, pencil, photography, computer generated art, mixed media, collage, etc.) and be a reflection of the following topics:
 1. What does liberty and/or freedom look like to you? Think of color, shape, form, imagery, icons, etc.
 2. How do choices impact our liberty and freedom?
 3. If you created a "Legacy of Liberty," what would it look like? What is important to you?
 4. How does the law relate to your ideas of liberty and freedom?
- ★ All art must be original and may not include any material that may violate copyright laws.



- ★ Each school should select one representative entry from those received for each contest and submit both entries to the U.S. District Court District of New Mexico Law Day Contest Committee (see Art & Essay Contest Guidelines for formatting).
- ★ All entries must be received by the U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico by **May 29, 2009**. An awards reception will be held in Albuquerque on **June 29, 2009**.

ESSAY CONTEST

- ★ Contest is open to 9th - 12th grade students currently attending a New Mexico public high school.
- ★ Essays should be approximately 500 words in length and must be written entirely by contestants based on the following questions:
 1. How can you make a difference in your family, community or society as a whole and create your own Legacy of Liberty?
 2. How does understanding your rights and responsibilities under the law empower you to make better choices in your life?
 3. How does a voluntary adherence to the rule of law expand, rather than limit, opportunities for liberty and freedom.
 4. How can "accepting responsibility for your choices and understanding the consequences of your actions" make you free?
- ★ The essays submitted should not be research papers, but instead, should contain each student's original thoughts on the topic.