

2009 Law Day Art and Essay Contest  
“A Legacy of Liberty - The Choice is Yours”  
**Deadline for Entries: May 29, 2009**

The U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico is hosting a 2009 Law Day Essay and Art 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. Sponsored by the New Federal Bar Association, contest awards will be given at a reception in Albuquerque on June 29. Awards for each category include \$1,000 for 1st place, \$500 for 2nd place, \$250 for 3rd place, and six Honorable Mention certificates. In addition, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place recipients living more than 70 miles from Albuquerque will receive a limited travel expense per diem to attend the reception (see contest guidelines below for specific information).

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.

The contest is open to all 9th - 12th grade students currently attending a New Mexico public high school. Students may enter the Art or Essay contest, or may choose to enter both. Each contest has its own rules and guidelines, which are attached. The entry must be submitted through the high school which the student currently attends.

When the 2009 Law Day Art & Essay application packet is received, each school should return the “Packet Receipt and Intent to Participate” postcard by **May 1, 2009**, to let the Contest Committee know if any of its students intend to submit entries for consideration for the awards. Each school will then select one piece of art and one essay to represent the school, and submit both entries to the U.S. District Court by **May 29, 2009**. The U.S. District Court will mail out press releases to those newspapers identified on the returned postcards.

Please read the rules and guidelines carefully. Those entries received that do not follow the specified guidelines for the contest being entered will not be considered for the awards. 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](mailto:lawdaycontests@nmcourt.fed.us). You also may download this form and other information regarding the contests at [www.nmcourt.fed.us](http://www.nmcourt.fed.us).

## ART CONTEST

The topic of this year's Art Contest is "Legacy of Liberty - The Choice is Yours." In thinking about what to paint, photograph or otherwise create, you may ask your self the following questions:

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?

### Contest Rules:

- ★ Contest is open to 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students currently attending a New Mexico public high school.
- ★ The entry must be submitted through the high school which the student currently attends.
- ★ Art must be 2-dimensional and no larger than 20" x 24." Students may use any medium, including, but not limited to:
  - Painting (acrylic, watercolor, oil, egg tempera, etc.)
  - Drawing (pencil, pastel, graphite, pen, etc.)
  - Collage and Mixed Media
  - Computer Generated Art (in printed form)
  - Photography (digital or traditional film, in printed form)
- ★ All art must be original and may not include any material that may violate copyright laws. All submissions must be accompanied by the attached Submission Cover Sheet certifying the originality of the work.
- ★ When the 2009 Law Day Art & Essay application packet is received, each school should return the "Packet Receipt and Intent to Participate" postcard by **May 1, 2009**, to let the Contest Committee know if any of its students intend to submit entries for consideration for the awards. Each school will then select one representative entry from those received, and submit a photograph of the entry in JPG format to the U.S. District Court District of New Mexico Essay Committee at [lawdaycontests@nmcourt.fed.us](mailto:lawdaycontests@nmcourt.fed.us). If a school does not have access to the Internet, entries may be submitted on CD via mail to:

U.S. District Court  
333 Lomas Blvd. NW  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102  
Attn: Law Day Contest Committee

Please note, the court will not be able to return CD submissions.

★ Art should not be signed at this time or contain the student's or school's name in any way. Instead, students should assign a title to the piece of work and include a separate Submission Cover Sheet (see attached) with each entry. An identification number will be assigned to the piece of art to ensure anonymity during scoring. Art entries must be received by the U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico by **May 29, 2009**. Winners will be notified via mail by **June 15, 2009**. An awards reception will be held in Albuquerque on **June 29, 2009**.

★ Awards will be given as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$1000

2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$500

3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$250

Honorable Mention - Six (6) Non-Monetary Award Certificates

In addition, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place recipients living more than 70 miles from Albuquerque will receive a limited travel expense per diem of \$129 per person for the winner and two adults to attend the reception, plus \$.55 cents per mile in gas allowance. Honorable Mention certificates will be distributed at the reception as well, and recipients, family and teachers are encouraged to attend. However, no travel expenses will be provided for Honorable Mention winners or their families.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winning entries from each contest will be displayed at the U.S. District courthouses in each of the district divisional offices in Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe. After the exhibit period, artwork will be returned to the student.

## ESSAY CONTEST

The topic of this year's Essay Contest is "A Legacy of Liberty - The Choice is Yours." Questions to consider:

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?

### Contest Rules:

- ★ Contest is open to 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students currently attending a New Mexico public high school.
- ★ Essays must be written entirely by contestants.
- ★ The essays submitted should not be research papers, but instead, should contain each student's original thoughts on the topic. **ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE, REGARDLESS OF TECHNICAL ABILITY.**
- ★ Essays are to be approximately 500 words in length and should be typed, double-spaced and prepared in an electronic format using a word processing application. If a student does not have access to a computer, essays should be typed, double-spaced, on 8-1/2" x 11" white paper using 1" margins.
- ★ When the 2009 Law Day Art & Essay application packet is received, each school should return the "Packet Receipt and Intent to Participate" postcard by **May 1, 2009**, to let the Contest Committee know if any of its students intend to submit entries for consideration for the awards. Each school will then select one representative entry from those received, and submit the entry in electronic format to the U.S. District Court District of New Mexico Essay Committee at [lawdaycontests@nmcourt.fed.us](mailto:lawdaycontests@nmcourt.fed.us). If the school does not have access to the Internet, entries may be submitted via mail to:

U.S. District Court  
333 Lomas Blvd. NW  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102  
Attn: Law Day Essay Committee

- ★ Essays should not contain the student's or school's name, but instead should include a separate Submission Cover Sheet (see attached). An identification number will be assigned to the essay to ensure anonymity during scoring.

- ★ Essays will not be returned due to the volume anticipated. Therefore, students should make a copy of their essay before submission.
- ★ Essays must be received by the U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico by **May 29, 2009**. Winners will be notified via mail **June 15, 2009**. An awards reception will be held in Albuquerque on **June 29, 2009**.
- ★ Awards will be given as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$1000

2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$500

3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$250

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