



2022 LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST

2022 Law Day Theme: “The Constitution in Times of Change”

The Constitution is a dynamic document, as it not only outlines a blueprint for government, but also delegates power, articulates rights, and offers mechanisms for change. It is neither perfect, nor exhaustive, as our nation’s history makes clear. Legislation, court rulings, amendments, lawyers, and “we the people” have built upon those original words across generations to attempt to make the “more perfect Union” more real. That effort continues today, as contemporary leaders and everyday citizens raise their voices as loud as ever to fulfill the promise of the Constitution. Defining and refining those words of the Constitution might be our oldest national tradition, and how each of us works—together—toward a more perfect Union.

See: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/

Essay Question:

In *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court upheld the doctrine of “Separate but Equal” enshrining racial segregation as the law of the land. The decision was ultimately overturned by the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*. *Roe v. Wade*, and the subsequent interpreting cases, established the right for women to decide whether or not to terminate a pregnancy under certain conditions. *Dobbs v. Jackson* is a case where the proponents seek to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Should the Supreme Court ever reverse its interpretation of existing law, and if so, what considerations should it undertake in deciding to make such a reversal?

Contest Rules:

1. All applicants must be a high school junior or senior currently enrolled in a Douglas County or Elbert County high school.
2. Each essay must be the student’s original work.
3. Each essay must be 750 words or fewer, typed, double spaced and one sided.
4. Each student shall submit only one entry.
5. Each entry MUST include the following:
 - a) A cover sheet stating:

- 1) The student's name, home address, telephone number, and email;
 - 2) The school name, address and phone number; and
 - 3) The essay word count.
 - b) An essay meeting the requirements of this contest.
 - c) An official school transcript with the student's GPA or an unofficial transcript transmitted directly from a school official; and
 - d) Two letters of recommendation.
6. The deadline for entries is **Friday, April 1, 2022 at 5 p.m.** No late entries will be accepted.
7. Entries must be **received** either via regular mail or via email on or before the deadline, as follows:
- VIA REGULAR MAIL: DEBA
c/o Ian Shea
Heckenbach Malara PC
7400 East Orchard Road, Suite 270S
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111
- VIA EMAIL: ishea@familylawcolorado.com
If an entry is sent via email, all of the documentation and information required for entry **MUST** be included.
In the subject line of the email, you must write: "DEBA ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION".
Emailed submissions must be submitted in PDF form.
8. Essays will be judged on format, clarity, style, reasoning, creativity and overall effort.
9. The Douglas Elbert Bar Association will select **one** contest winner, based on several factors, including the student's essay, the student's GPA and classes, letters of recommendation, and extra-curricular activities.
10. Submitted entries will not be returned.
11. The Douglas Elbert Bar Association retains the right to reproduce any essays submitted, in whole or in part, and the names, schools and photos of award recipients.
12. Award recipients should plan to attend this year's Law Day event.

Prize: One \$5,000 scholarship for payment of college tuition paid directly to the educational institution will be awarded to the winner.