



2026 LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST

What is Law Day?

Law Day, held annually, is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day provides an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice, and contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. -ABA website.

2026 Theme: “The Rule of Law and the American Dream.”

The 2026 Law Day theme will be “The Rule of Law and the American Dream.” We invite everyone to join us to celebrate Law Day by lifting their voices to strengthen our democracy.

Why this topic now?

The rule of law—the idea that no person is above the law—is what ensures the rights of the people to live their lives as freely as possible and to pursue their dreams. The ABA encourages all Americans to recognize Law Day on May 1, 2026, and to reflect on how the rule of law ensures all Americans have the ability to fulfill their dreams.

Introduction

From the nation's earliest days, the promise of America has been rooted in the idea that all people are equal under the law. The 2026 Law Day theme, "The Rule of Law and the American Dream," highlights how our constitutional framework protects the rights and freedoms that allow each person to pursue their own path. By ensuring that no one is above the law, our system promotes fairness, stability, and opportunity. This year, we invite students to consider how the rule of law helps turn aspirations into reality.

Essay Question – All entries must address the prompt:

Essay entries should reflect the student’s interpretation of the 2026 Law Day theme by responding to one of the following prompts:

- 1) How does the rule of law protect individual rights and ensure that everyone has a fair chance to pursue the American Dream?
- 2) What challenges threaten the rule of law today, and how might those challenges affect opportunities for future generations?
- 3) What responsibilities do citizens have to help uphold the rule of law, and how do those responsibilities support the American Dream?

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 and not the result of AI (ChatGPT or other large language models), plagiarism or ghostwriting.
3. Each essay must be 750 words or fewer, typed, and double spaced.
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 official or unofficial transcript transmitted directly from a school official; and
 - d) No more than two letters of recommendation.
6. The deadline for entries is **Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 5 p.m.** Late entries will not be accepted.
7. Entries must be **received** via email on or before the deadline, as follows:

VIA EMAIL: jane@rklawpc.com
All 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 on May 1, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM and may stay for a presentation from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

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

