

The Penobscot County Bar Association's 2021 Law Day Contest Rules and Information

THEME **Advancing the Rule of Law Now**

The rule of law is the principle that all individuals and institutions are accountable to the law. Countries around the world strive to achieve the rule of law, where clear and fair processes are used to enforce the law, an independent judiciary interprets the laws, and human rights are guaranteed for all.

Do all individuals and institutions in America truly receive equal treatment under the law in 2021? Does America truly abide by the principle that no one is “above the law”? How should we as a society act to protect the principle of rule of law in our courts, governments, and communities? How have current events in America demonstrated the strengthening or deterioration of the rule of law?

CRITERIA Writers must provide a thoughtful and cohesive exploration of the theme in an essay of 750 words or less. Artists must submit a two-dimensional work of art, such as a drawing, a painting, a photograph, or a comic, no larger than 11 inches by 17 inches, exploring the theme. Contest judges (attorneys and legal professionals from the Penobscot County legal community) will award points to each essay and work of art for relevance, theme, creativity, appearance, and originality.

ELIGIBILITY Ninth-graders, tenth-graders, eleventh-graders, and twelfth-graders in Penobscot County, including home-schooled students at the high-school level, are eligible to win.

DEADLINE Submit essays or works of art with completed cover sheets to Tracy Collins by email to tcollins@rudmanwinchell.com or by U.S. mail to P.O. Box 1401, Bangor ME 04402-1401. Student names should not appear only on the cover sheet and should not appear on the essay or artwork. **All entries must be received or postmarked by 5 p.m. March 19, 2021.** The Association will return original artwork only upon written request received by Tracy Collins at the above addresses on or before June 1, 2021.

PRIZES The winner in each category will win \$500. The runner-up in each category will win \$250. The Penobscot County Bar Association will announce the winners at a ceremony in May. (The ceremony may occur via online conference or in-person, depending on COVID-19 safety protocols in effect at that time.) The Association will contact finalists with details about the May ceremony no later than April 19, 2021.

For information, please contact Contest Coordinator Tracy Collins at tcollins@rudmanwinchell.com.