

# 2023 EJCBA Law Day Essay Contest Guidelines

## Prompt

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Why is incivility dangerous to the functioning of a free society and what role does technology play in either causing or contributing to civility or incivility?

## Eligibility

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The contest is open to students currently in grades 9 through 12 in counties comprising the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy and Union Counties. Students in the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades attending public, private, parochial and charter schools, and home-schooled and virtual students of equivalent grade status are invited to participate.

## Submission Deadline

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April 3, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. EST. Winners will be notified by April 21, 2023.

## Essay Requirements

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1. Essays must respond to the prompt.
2. Essays must be typed and submitted as a PDF document.
3. Essay must be formatted as follows: Times New Roman font, Size 12 font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins. Essay length not to exceed 4 pages.
4. Citations must be placed in footnotes, endnotes, or bibliographies.

## Essay Submission

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Only one essay may be submitted per student. All essays must be submitted with the contest entry form, by email, on or before the submission deadline. Hard-copy or late submissions will not be accepted.

To submit an essay, a student must:

1. Submit an essay that complies with the "Essay Requirements."
2. Complete and submit the contest Entry Form and essay by email.
3. Email submissions to Kristina Crews at [crewsk@circuit8.org](mailto:crewsk@circuit8.org).
4. Email subject should contain: "2023 Law Day Essay Submission"

## Scoring of Essays

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1. Identification of Issue: An above average essay will identify a position on the issue and persuasively explain the position.
2. Thesis and Argument Development: An above average essay will convey a well-developed thesis and will critique, examine, or rely on external sources.
3. Writing Style and Proofreading: An above average essay will contain few to no punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization errors and use precise, topic-appropriate language and vocabulary.

## Grounds for Disqualification

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Submitting an essay that:

1. Does not comply with these Contest Rules;
2. Is not the student's original, authored work;
3. Provides fake entry information; or
4. Plagiarizes content.

All decisions of disqualification will be final.

## Scoring of Qualifying Submissions

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The essays will be judged by attorneys on the EJCBA Law Week Committee. Any identifying information of the contestant will be removed prior to review by the contest judges. Their decisions will be final.

## Recognition

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The top three entries will be recognized at a special ceremony at the 2023 Law Day event at the Alachua County Main Library Branch on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

The first place winner will receive a \$100 cash prize. The second place winner will receive a \$50 cash prize. The third place winner will receive a \$25 cash prize.

The contest winners will be invited to shadow a judge at a mutually agreeable weekday and time.

## Why Participate?

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- \* Cash prizes for the top three winners
- \* Recognition at the 2023 Law Day event at the Alachua County Main Library
- \* Opportunity to shadow a judge
- \* Opportunity to develop research skills
- \* Opportunity to create a writing sample for college and scholarship applications
- \* Accolade to include in college and scholarship applications

## License to Use Essays, Names, and Photographs

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Winners will be required to submit a release allowing the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association and Eighth Judicial Circuit to publish their essays in print, on their websites, and via social media platforms. Winners will be asked to provide and authorize use of photographs of themselves in contest-related promotional materials, which may include photographs taken at the courthouse.

## Questions

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For more information and/or inquiries, please contact Kristina Crews at [crewsk@circuit8.org](mailto:crewsk@circuit8.org) for the Law Week Committee to review and respond. Please include "2023 Law Day Essay Contest" in the subject line.

