

***Law Foundation of Ashtabula County &
The Ashtabula County Bar Association***
PO BOX 119
Jefferson, Ohio 44047
440-415-4503

The Ashtabula County Law Foundation was established in Ashtabula County to educate local students and instill in the community a greater appreciation for our legal system. Law Day, which is traditionally celebrated on May 1, celebrates the role of law in society and helps to promote a deeper understanding of the legal system. It serves as an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the rule of law, the principles of justice, and the contributions of lawyers and judges to the functioning of democracy. Law Day activities often include legal education programs, discussions on constitutional rights and responsibilities, and events highlighting the significance of the legal system in protecting individual freedoms and promoting justice for all.

In partnership with the Ashtabula County Bar Association, we are hosting our annual Law Day, May 1, 2024. In connection with Law Day, the Ashtabula County Law Foundation will be hosting our annual essay contest for students. Information about the essay contest and its cash prizes accompanies this letter. Please encourage your students to submit their essays and be eligible for this contest.

Additionally, the Ashtabula County Law Foundation has funding available to schools to fund educational materials or supplies related to civic education and government. We also may be able to assist in filling needs for speakers or presenters to classes related to civics, the law, or government. Materials or funding can be provided for your classes with Foundation approval upon written request to the Ashtabula County Law Foundation describing the requested materials, the amount of the donation requested, and the reason or benefit that the material will provide to your students. Our foundation meets quarterly and will vote on each request at the next meeting after the request is received.

Thank you for the time and consideration you place into educating your students. It is our hope that the Ashtabula County Law Foundation can play a small part in assisting you in that endeavor.

For any questions or additional information, please contact:
Olivia Springer, Ashtabula County Bar Association Admirative Assistant
440-415-4503 or lawfoundationashtabula@gmail.com

2024 LAW DAY ESSAY COMPETITION

*Sponsored by Law Foundation of Ashtabula County &
The Ashtabula County Bar Association*

PURPOSE

The purpose of the competition is to create awareness of Law Day and encourage greater interest in the Constitution and the rule of law among students.

COMPETITION PRIZES

One competition cash prize of **\$500.00** will be awarded for the best entry as judged by the Law Day Essay Committee, comprised of representatives from the Ashtabula County Bar Association (ACBA) Law Day Committee and the ACBA President.

A competition cash prize of **\$300.00** will be award for the second-place entry.

A competition cash prize of **\$200.00** will be award for the third-place entry.

Each winner's teacher or home school advisor will also receive a **\$100 donation** for school supplies.

The prizes will be awarded during the Law Day breakfast at The Jefferson Community Center, 11 East Jefferson Street, Jefferson, Ohio on, Wednesday - May 1, 2024 from 7:30am - 9:30am. The winners, their parent/guardian, and their faculty or home school advisors will be invited to the breakfast as guests.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all high school students who reside in Ashtabula County or attend a school that has a presence in Ashtabula County, such as a campus or facility. The ACBA shall have the right of first publication of the winning essay.

AUTHORSHIP

Each entry shall be the original work of a single individual and constitute an independent subject. The ideas and work reflected by each entry must be the author's own.

The author must:

- Perform all of the key tasks of analyzing and researching the topic;
- Formulate positions and arguments; and
- Write and revise the paper for themselves without using artificial intelligence platforms such as ChatGPT.

The author may:

- Inform another of the progress they have made in performing these tasks; and
- Accept a reasonable amount of responsive advice from academicians or practitioners in the field.

The student must avoid undue collaboration. (For example, the author may obtain a teacher's opinion that a detailed outline should be reorganized, or that a first draft unwisely omits to cover a subtopic or to raise and respond to criticisms of the author's premise.)

The author must limit the amount of such advice sought or received so that the final entry truly reflects the author's own ideas.

SUBJECT MATTER AND LENGTH.

The essay subject matter is the 2024 Law Day theme described below.



The 2024 Law Day theme “Voices of Democracy” recognizes that in democracies, the people rule. For nearly 250 years, Americans have expressed their political views and wishes by speaking their minds and voting in elections. In 2024, the United States will hold its 60th presidential election, and Americans will address fundamental questions about democracy and the rule of law.

Essay Topic

In recent years, tensions in our democratic system have revealed deep divisions in American society. These divisions are aggravated by incivility in public discourse, an insufficient understanding or appreciation about the rights and obligations of citizens in a constitutional republic, and the decline in civics education that informs about the way American government works.

Together, however, we can collaborate to overcome our differences, resolve our disputes without resort to violence, promote a sense of patriotism, and preserve our republic.

Please explain why civics, civility, and collaboration are the cornerstones of our democracy and how they contribute to a well-functioning democratic government.

JUDGING

The format of this competition has been selected to stimulate creativity of thought and research. Entries will be judged based on the following criteria: originality and creativity of topic treatment, quality of articulation and analysis of the constitutional provisions implicated, and technical quality of writing including organization, grammar, syntax and form. The entries will be judged anonymously by members of the essay committee. All fields on the official entry form below must be completed.

1. The entry should be submitted to the Ashtabula County Bar Association PO BOX 119, Jefferson, Ohio 44047 or emailed to lawfoundationashtabula@gmail.com in PDF format. The e-mail should have the subject header "Attn: ACBA Law Day Essay Competition," and include in the body of the email a completed entry form shown below.
2. The contestant's name and other identifying markings such as school name are not to be on any copy of the submitted entry.
3. ACBA will assign a random number to each entry and record this number on all copies of each essay submitted.
4. Neither the contestant's identity nor his/her academic institution will be known to the essay committee members.
5. Each entrant may submit only one essay.
6. Contestants will receive confirmation of the entry. The winner(s) will be notified by email and of telephone of their selection.

ENTRY DEADLINE.

Entries for the competition must be submitted by April 19, 2024 at 4 p.m.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

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| Student's Name: |
| School or Home Schooled: |
| Grade: |
| Faculty or Home School Advisor: (if chosen as a winner to whom would you like to receive a donation for school supplies) |
| Student's Address: |
| Student's Email Address: |
| Student's Phone Number: |
| <i>Office use only:</i> |