



March 2, 2026

RE: 2026 Law Day Contest for Elementary, Middle, and High School Students

Dear Parents, Principals, and Teachers,

The Mobile Bar Association is excited to announce its 2026 Law Day Contest. Law Day is an annual national event celebrating the role of law in our society. The 2026 Law Day theme (chosen by the American Bar Association) is ***The Rule of Law and the American Dream***. This year's theme encourages Americans to reflect on how the rule of law ensures that all citizens have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.

This year's contest includes three categories:

- Elementary (K-5th) Art Contest
- Middle School (6th-8th) Essay Contest
- High School (9th-12th) Essay Contest

Submissions and entry forms are due **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026.**

Additional details and rules regarding submissions are included in the attached Contest Guidelines.

All participants are invited to a special Law Day Judicial Event on **Monday, May 4, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.** in the Ceremonial Courtroom at Government Plaza. We will circulate additional information via email, but please mark your calendars!

Prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) applicants from each category. The first-place winner from each category will receive \$100, the second-place winner will receive \$50, and the third-place winner will receive \$25. In addition, the teacher of each first-place winner will receive a \$50 gift card. Winners will be notified by Tuesday, May 5, 2026. Winners and their parents and teachers will be invited to attend our 2026 Law Day Membership Luncheon at the Battle House Hotel on Friday, May 15, at 11:45 p.m., as honorary guests of the Mobile Bar Association.

Please feel free to contact me with questions. I can be reached at valynda.jeromewilliams@gmail.com or by phone at 850-321-8166. I look forward to your students' participation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Valynda Jerome-Williams'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Valynda' and last name 'Williams' being more prominent than the middle name 'Jerome'.

Valynda Jerome-Williams
Law Day Co-chair, 2026

2026 Law Day Essay Contest Guidelines – Middle and High School

The Rule of Law and the American Dream



Law Day, celebrated throughout the month of May, has been a visible part of American legal culture since President Dwight D. Eisenhower established it in 1958 to celebrate the rule of law in a free society. The 2026 Law Day theme is *The Rule of Law and the American Dream*.

1. **Grade Range:** This competition is open to all students enrolled in 6th-12th grade in **Mobile County**, with two categories of judging: Middle School (6th-8th) and High School (9th-12th).
2. **Essay Prompts:** Participants must critically interpret the Law Day theme –*The Rule of Law and the American Dream* – in response to the following *grade-level* prompts:

Middle School (6th-8th) prompt

If the American Dream means having a fair shot at success, what responsibilities do citizens have to ensure that opportunity is available for everyone - not just themselves?

High School (9th-12th) prompt

Some argue that the American Dream rewards individual effort while ignoring systemic barriers created by law and policy. Others say focusing on systemic barriers removes personal responsibility. Write an essay that takes a clear position on this debate, using specific evidence to support your argument.

3. **Limit:** Only one entry of *original* work per student will be accepted.
4. **Format:** All entries must be typewritten and **must not exceed 500 words**, not including title or citations (citations, when relevant, are encouraged but not required). The use of generative AI tools in writing essays is not allowed. Entries must be submitted as a Word or PDF document; submissions through a Google link will not be accepted. *All entries must include a fully completed Entry Form, including the student's signature on the bottom.*
5. **Submission:** Essays and entry forms must be submitted via email to jmorgan@mobilebarassociation.com by Friday, April 17, 2026. If you have not received an email confirming receipt 48 hours after submission, please contact Ms. Jerome-Williams at 850-321-8166. Entries may be submitted by students, parents, or teachers. The Mobile Bar Association bears no responsibility for lost or undelivered entries.
6. **Judging:** Entries will be judged by a committee composed of Mobile Bar Association members. The Committee will review entries based on response relative to the prompt, grammar, and creativity.
7. **Prizes:** Prizes and recognition will be given to each category's first, second, and third place winners.
8. **Deadline:** All entries must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026.**
9. By entering, the student gives the Mobile Bar Association the right to reproduce material submitted in any medium without time, use, or territorial limitation as long as it is for non-commercial purposes.

The Rule of Law and the American Dream



2026 Law Day Entry Form (Essay Contests)

You must include this cover sheet with your submission.
Please write or type in ALL information.

Student's name: _____

Current grade: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

School telephone: _____

Teacher's name: _____

Teacher's email: _____

Parent's name: _____

Parent's email: _____

Parent's address: _____

Parent's phone: _____

Student signature required:

I have not used generative AI tools to write this essay. _____

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, April 17, 2026 by 5:00 p.m.