



2026 Law Day Art Contest

Sponsored by the
Office for Justice Initiatives and the
Historical Society of the New York Courts

Contest Rules

The Office for Justice Initiatives and the Historical Society of the New York Courts invite high school students in New York State to participate in an art contest celebrating the American Bar Association's 2026 Law Day theme "The Rule of Law and the American Dream."

There are two ways to enter the contest:

1. online, register at <https://nycourts.questionpro.com/t/AOuOPZ772t> or
2. regular mail, download, and complete a copy of the registration and consent form along with your original artwork.

To learn more about the 2026 Law Day theme, visit the American Bar Association website:

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/

Eligibility:

- The contest is open to students (grades 9-12) currently enrolled in any high school within New York State or homeschooled students who have completed coursework through grade 8 and are working toward a high school degree within New York State.
- At the time of entry, the student must be at least 13 years of age and residing in New York State. To enter, students under the age of 18 must provide a consent form signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- Students residing in the same household as an employee of the New York State Unified Court System or Office for Justice Initiatives are excluded from participating.

Contest period

- The contest begins Monday, February 9, 2026, and ends on March 20, 2026.

- Winners will be notified and announced online by May 1, 2026.
- The contest will include two rounds.
 - In the first round, entries will be judged against others within the same judicial district. To learn which judicial district you live in visit: <https://ww2.nycourts.gov/admin/index.shtml>. The first-place winners in each judicial district will advance to the second round.
 - In the second round, the first-place winners from each judicial district across the state will be judged against one another.
 - Statewide first, second, and third-place prize winners will be selected from the second round.
- To submit your artwork by email, upload photos of your artwork to the registration form at <https://nycourts.questionpro.com/t/AOuOPZ772t>
- Submissions must be received no later than 11:59 PM EST on March 20, 2026.
- To submit your artwork by mail, download and complete the registration and consent form and mail it along with your artwork. All artwork must be mailed via USPS and postmarked by March 20, 2026. Mail your artwork to:

Office for Justice Initiatives
Attn: 2026 Law Day Art Contest
 New York County Civil Court
 111 Centre Street
 Room 1155
 New York, NY 10013

Contest Rules:

- There is no entry fee.
- One entry per contestant.
- The combined registration and consent form must be completed to enter.
- At the time of entry, the student must be at least 13 years of age and reside in New York State.
- Students under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian complete and sign the consent form.
- The artwork must be an original, two-dimensional drawing, painting, or collage constructed on paper or canvas. No computer-generated artwork (i.e., graphic design, digital art) will be accepted.

- Maximum size for artwork submissions is 18" x 24".
- The contestant retains all rights and ownership of their artwork; however, by entry to this contest they voluntarily consent and give the New York State Unified Court System (UCS), including the Office for Justice Initiatives (OJI), and the Historical Society of the New York Courts (HSNYC), its employees, designees, agents, successors and all persons or departments for whom or through it is acting, permission to copy, change, publish, distribute, and exhibit the contestant's artwork. The permission is perpetual and irrevocable and grants the New York State Unified Court System (UCS), including the Office for Justice Initiatives (OJI), and the Historical Society of the New York Courts (HSNYC), its employees, designees, agents, successors and all persons or departments for whom or through it is acting permission to use the work in any media for any purpose including online for Law Day 2026.
- Artwork submitted by mail will not be returned to the artist.
- The New York State Unified Court System (UCS), including the Office for Justice Initiatives (OJI), and the Historical Society of the New York Courts (HSNYC), its employees, designees, agents, successors and all persons or departments for whom or through it is acting are not liable for the non-delivery, loss, or damage to the contestant's artwork at any time during the contest period.
- The contest winners may be asked to mail in their original artwork if the submission was made electronically.

Contest Judge(s):

- In each round, the artwork will be judged by a panel based on creativity, originality, professional quality (neatness and craft), aesthetic quality (design, layout, color/tones), concept (honoring the Law Day theme), selection and application of materials, and complexity/level.

Release:

- All contestants hold the New York State Unified Court System, the Office for Justice Initiatives, the Historical Society of the New York Courts (HSNYC), and its employees, designees, agents, successors and all persons or departments for whom or through it is acting, harmless from and against all claims of any nature arising in connection with a contestant's participation in the contest, or contestant's acceptance or use of awards and prizes. The New York State Unified Court System, the Office for Justice Initiatives, the Historical Society of the New York Courts (HSNYC), and its employees, designees, agents, successors and all persons or departments for whom or through it is acting are not liable for any costs, damages, injuries, or other claims incurred as a result of anyone's participation in the contest or acceptance and usage of the awards and prizes.

Privacy:

- All contestants waive any privacy expectations they may have in connection with their entries. Contestants must not submit any content or information that they do not want made public (online or in person).
- If your artwork is selected as an honorable mention and/or winner:
 - Your name, age, grade, school, and city and state where you live may be displayed on the NYS Unified Court System’s Office for Justice Initiatives’ Contest webpage and promotional materials. This information may also be displayed on the Historical Society of the New York Courts website and promotional materials.
 - Street addresses, emails, and phone numbers will not be made public.
 - As a Statewide first, second, or third prize winner, the NYS Unified Court System’s Office for Justice Initiatives will feature the artwork on the Office for Justice Initiatives’ webpages and post it on its social media platforms. This information may also be displayed on the Historical Society of the New York Courts website and social media platforms.
 - Website visitors may also share your content via social media websites such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and other applications such as “Po.st” and “Add This.” These sites operate independently of the NYS Unified Court System and have their own privacy policies. In addition, it is possible that comments you disagree with may be posted on social media sites and may become associated with you and your artwork.

Prize:

- All contestants will receive a certificate of participation and a pocket U.S. Constitution.
- The Statewide first, second, and third-place prize winners will have their artwork featured on the New York State Unified Court System webpages and social media platforms for at least one year.
- Cash prizes courtesy of the Historical Society of the New York Courts will be awarded in the following amounts to the Statewide prize winners: 1st place, \$500; 2nd place, \$300; and 3rd place, \$200.