REALIZING THE DREAM: EQUALITY FOR ALL AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION 2013 LAW DAY THEME

SPARTANBURG COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST 2013 PACKET

SOUTH CAROLINA BAR SENIOR LAWYERS DIVISION
LAW DAY ESSAY STATEWIDE AWARDS

Grade Level:	
Entry #:	

2013 LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST JUDGING CRITERIA

REALIZING THE DREAM: EQUALITY FOR ALL

In applying the following criteria, the student's grade level should be taken into account. Assign a point value (1-10) to each of the following questions. One point indicates the lowest mark and 10, the highest.

Structure/Content	
Does the essay contain an introduct	ion, a descriptive body and a conclusion?
Is the data correct and in a clear and	d logical and/or sequential order?
Does the essay exhibit good langua grammar?	ge skills: proper spelling, syntax and
Are the references to sources (Conscient)	titution, Bill of Rights, cases, etc.)
Creativity/Originality	
Does the essay have some sense of	originality and creativity?
Are the ideas good and well develop	ped?
Does the essay creatively develop the	ne theme and does not deviate?
Does the essay contain the writer's	personal views and comments?
General Appearance	
Is the format neat/typed or written	<u>legibly</u> ?
Is the cover sheet attached and cor	rect?
Total points (100 points maximum)	

REALIZING THE DREAM: EQUALITY FOR ALL

The promise of equality under the law is what has made America a beacon to other nations. It is a pledge clearly set forth in the Declaration of Independence and in the opening words of the Preamble of the Constitution, "We the People." It is, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, the proposition to which our nation is dedicated.

The year 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. In 1963, during the Proclamation's centennial, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial and called upon our nation to live up to the great promise, enshrined in its founding documents, of equality for all. Five decades later, the inspirational words of Rev. Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech continue to resonate and challenge us to live up to our national ideal of equality under the law. The legacy of the Civil Rights Movement can be seen in the strides that have been made against discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation.

Law Day, May 1, 2013, will provide an opportunity to explore the movement for civil and human rights in America and the impact it has had in promoting the ideal of equality under the law. It will provide a forum for reflecting on the work that remains to be done in rectifying injustice, eliminating all forms of discrimination, and putting an end to human trafficking and other violations of our basic human rights. As Rev. Dr. King pointed out in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

WHAT IS LAW DAY?

Established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, Law Day celebrates the American heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law. Every year, Law Day provides legal professionals and others with opportunities to help students and the public understand how the law protects our freedoms.

REALIZING THE DREAM: EQUALITY FOR ALL

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

In a recently discovered taped interview, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stated:

"I am convinced that when the history books are written in future years, historians will have to record this movement (the civil rights movement) as an epoch in our country's heritage."

The 2013 Law Day theme presents an opportunity to consider the unique American foundational promise of equality under the law. In 1776, at the time of America's birth, "we" as a country, declared that "all men are created equal". This declaration was echoed in 1789 in the preamble to the Constitution with the words "we the people" and with the recognition that the first function our new union was to "establish justice".

The 2013 Law Day theme presents an opportunity to reflect and examine the development of the American promise of equality under the law by examining some landmark events in our great country's history. 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation which occurred during the Civil War. 2013 also marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech given during a time when many were advocating for the expansion of civil rights laws.

The Law Day Theme also provides an opportunity to look forward and examine where the American promise of equality under the law remains to be developed in future years.

2013 LAW DAY ESSAY TOPIC

Each student participant must write an essay of 1,000 words or less on this topic:

What did Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. mean when he wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"?

REALIZING THE DREAM: EQUALITY FOR ALL

The following discussion points have been provided as a suggested approach; however, they are not mandatory, and creativity is encouraged:

- 1) Discuss an historical example of the expansion of civil and human rights in America.
- 2) Explain or discuss an area of law that you believe needs to be rectified to avoid injustice or to prevent discrimination.
- 3) Examine the Constitution and explain what is meant by the great promise of "equality for all".
- 4) Explain how the movement for civil and human rights has impacted the ideal of equality under law.
- 5) Discuss how the promise of equality under the law has made America a beacon to other nations.

ESSAY DIRECTIONS

Each essay writer is required to adhere to the following:

- 1) Submit a typewritten essay in a 12-point font and include all attached documents:
 - The student's name, home address, home phone number, and grade level
 - School name, address, phone number, and educator's name (if applicable)
 - Name of local newspaper(s)
 - Documentation of all research on the enclosed Works Cited page or an attached sheet (if applicable).
- 2) Forward all to an English Language Arts (ELA) or Social Studies (SS) teacher to submit the given essays and application forms.
- 3) DO NOT PUT THE STUDENT'S NAME ON THE ESSAY ITSELF.

REALIZING THE DREAM: EQUALITY FOR ALL

SELECTION CRITERIA

Each English Language Arts and/or Social Studies teacher may submit only two (2) essays per grade level from his or her respective school for consideration for the pre-selection judging. These essays will then be read and assessed by members of the Spartanburg County Bar Association. Winners from each grade will be invited to a special reception. The overall winner will be announced at that reception.

All public school or home-schooled participants' essays along with the appropriate cover sheets must be submitted by **noon on Friday, April 12, 2013** to Judge Mark Hayes, Spartanburg County Courthouse, 180 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306. Should you have any questions, please contact Judge Hayes at mhayesj@sccourts.org or by calling (864)562-4144.

LOCAL AWARDS

9 th Grade	\$100
10 th Grade	\$100
11 th Grade	\$100
12 th Grade	\$100
Overall Winner	\$500

Cash awards, medals and certificates will be presented to the recipients and their parents at the reception. Winning essays may be submitted to the local newspaper for publication and also to other organizations for possible publication and release to the general public.

SENIOR LAWYERS DIVISION STATEWIDE AWARDS

The Senior Lawyers Division of the South Carolina Bar is sponsoring a statewide Law Day Essay Contest. Each local overall and grade winning essay will be regarded to determine statewide essay winners. The Senior Lawyers Division will then make the following awards to the essays with the highest scores:

Statewide Best 9 th Grade	\$500
Statewide Best 10 th Grade	\$500
Statewide Best 11 th Grade	\$500
Statewide Best 12 th Grade	\$500
Statewide Overall Winner	\$1,000

All local winning essays along with the appropriate coversheets must be submitted by **noon on Friday, June 7, 2013** to Judge Hayes.

REALIZING THE DREAM: EQUALITY FOR ALL

ESSAYS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Students from participating schools will submit essays to a school official (teacher, administrator, etc.) for pre-selection.

EACH SCHOOL WILL SUBMIT NO MORE THAN TWO (2) ESSAYS PER ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND/OR SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER DIVISION FOR EACH GRADE DIVISION

School submissions should include:

- 1) Essays and corresponding entry forms, including any source citations and parental release forms (if applicable);
- 2) A list of all other students who prepared essays for this contest. Judge Hayes would like to recognize the efforts of all participants.

ESSAYS FROM STUDENTS WHOSE SCHOOLS ARE NOT PARTICIPATING OR WHO ARE HOME-SCHOOLED

Students whose schools are not participating or who are not affiliated with a school may send entries directly to Judge Hayes for consideration.

- 1) A student in this category must indicate in the appropriate space provided on the entry form that he or she is not affiliated with a school;
- 2) A student who is affiliated with a non-participating school must provide the school's name, address, telephone number, and indicate on the form that the school is not participating. (Note: if more than one entry is received from a non-participating school, that school may be contacted for pre-selection.)