

# Law Day Planning

# Law Day 2009

President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day in 1958 to strengthen our heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law. Each year, the American Bar Association designates the Law Day theme that is utilized throughout the nation by state and local bar associations conducting Law Day contests and events.

The State Bar of Texas holds a statewide contest for winning entries from local bar associations' Law Day poster, editorial, and photography contests.

More information about the Law Day theme and statewide contests will be sent to local bar associations upon the American Bar Association's announcement of the 2009 theme.

Consider resources from the American Bar Association's website:

<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday>

An easy community project is reading *Duck for President* to elementary school children.

Keep in mind important **deadlines** for the 2009 statewide contests:

**Wednesday, April 1 — Local Bar Association Winning Entries Due to State Bar of Texas**

**Friday, April 10 — Statewide Winners Announced and Notified**

**Friday, May 1 — State Bar of Texas Statewide Celebration**

The following three pages are excerpts of the 2008 Law Day brochure. Hopefully this information will provide you a jumping off point for your 2009 planning!

## LAW DAY 2008 THEME

### The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity

Many people do not make the connection between the rule of law and their daily lives—their safety, jobs, health, education, and infrastructure. Advancing the rule of law helps achieve an array of public benefits. We all have a stake in the rule of law, and we all can do our part to strengthen it. The rule of law refers to a system of self-government with a strong and accessible legal process. It features a system based on fair, publicized, broadly understood, and stable laws, and diverse, competent, and independent lawyers and judges. This foundation is essential to foster sustainable communities of opportunity and equity.

Without the rule of law, individuals are consigned to live in societies characterized by violence, poverty, illness, and ignorance.

## 2008 LAW DAY CONTESTS

The State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association invite local bar associations and young lawyer affiliates to participate in the statewide Law Day contests. The State Bar sponsors the editorial and photo contests and co-sponsors the poster contest with the Texas Young Lawyers Association. Every local bar association in Texas can submit their first place winners in each category from their local contests to the State Bar. **Remember, the State Bar will accept only ONE entry per category from each local bar association! The deadline for all submissions is April 1, 2008.**

The categories and rules are as follows:

### EDITORIAL CONTEST

1. Students from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to take part in the editorial contest.
2. The editorial must be written in response to the Law Day theme.
3. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the entrant's and/or the local bar association's responsibility. Entrants must agree to allow the State Bar of Texas to reproduce entries in any medium without restriction.
4. The editorial must accompany the entry form.
5. The editorial must be no longer than 500 words.
6. The editorial must be typewritten, double-spaced.
7. The submitted work must be the student's own, original work.
8. The editorial must show critical analysis and historical evidence.
9. Please provide an electronic version of the entry.
10. The editorial must be received by the State Bar of Texas by April 1, 2008.
11. Only one student participant per entry.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

1. Students between the ages of 12 and 18 are eligible to participate in the photography contest.
2. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the entrant's and/or the local bar association's responsibility. Entrants must agree to allow the State Bar of Texas to reproduce entries in any medium without restriction.
3. The photographs must be accompanied by the entry form.
4. Photographs must reflect the 2008 Law Day theme, be created by the entrant, not have been published in any medium, and taken after June 1, 2007.
5. By entering, the student gives the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association the right to reproduce any photograph submitted in any medium without time use or territorial limitation as long as it is for non-commercial purposes.
6. The State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association bears no responsibility for lost or damaged entries.
7. The entrant must submit two exact duplicates of the winning photograph.
8. Color and black and white photographs are considered.
9. On the back of the photographs, include a typewritten label with the following information: name of student, name of local bar association, the entrant's signature, the title of the photograph, and a signature from the parent or guardian.
10. Photographs larger than 8 x 10 inches, or those that are mounted or framed, are not eligible for the contest.
11. Slides will not be accepted.
12. Only one student participant per entry.
13. The photograph must be received by the State Bar of Texas by April 1, 2008

## **POSTER CONTEST**

1. There are multiple categories for the poster contest. The categories include K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade; 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade; 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade; and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. One entry per student will be accepted.
3. The poster must be the student's interpretation of the 2008 Law Day theme.
4. The poster must be the student's original work.
5. An entry form must accompany the poster.
6. The poster must be a two dimensional drawing, painting or collage. No computer-generated work will be eligible.

7. Posters may be “color copied” if the original poster is being displayed by a local bar association.
8. Posters larger than 25 x 32 inches are not eligible.
9. Only one student participant per entry.
10. The poster must be received by the State Bar of Texas by April 1, 2008.

## **PRIZES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNERS**

The first, second, and third place winners of the statewide contest in each category will be invited to the State Bar of Texas Law Day Luncheon on May 2, 2008. The State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association will host the luncheon and present the prizes to the winners. Each winner may invite two guests to attend at no charge and may pay for additional guests to attend. The State Bar of Texas will reimburse travel expenses for the winner and two guests. Reimbursement amounts are determined by the student’s location in the state.

Below is an explanation of the prizes.

### **EDITORIAL CONTEST**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$1,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$500
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$250

### **PHOTO CONTEST**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$400 and certificate
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$200 and certificate
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$100 and certificate

### **POSTER CONTEST**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$150 cash and a \$50 gift certificate
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$75 cash and a \$25 gift certificate
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$50 cash and a \$10 gift certificate

For additional information regarding the celebration of the 2008 Law Day, please access the American Bar Association’s website at [www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org). The “Law Day Planning Guide” is available on this site.

For additional information or questions, please contact:

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