



2018 ESSAY CONTEST State Bar of Texas Law Student Division

Purpose

The Law Student Division Essay Contest is an annual contest that provides an opportunity to help students and the public better understand the justice system. Moreover, it offers us the ability to reflect on this nation's legal heritage.

2018 LAW DAY THEME

SEPARATION OF POWERS: FRAMEWORK FOR FREEDOM
The U.S. Constitution sets out a system of government with distinct and independent branches—Congress, the Presidency, and a Supreme Court. It also defines legislative, executive, and judicial powers and outlines how they interact. These three separate branches share power, and each branch serves as a check on the power of the others. "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition," James Madison explained in Federalist 51. Why? Madison believed that the Constitution's principles of separation of powers and checks and balances preserve political liberty. They provide a framework for freedom. Yet, this framework is not self-executing. We the people must continually act to ensure that our constitutional democracy endures, preserving our liberties and advancing our rights. The Law Day 2018 theme enables us to reflect on the separation of powers as fundamental to our constitutional purpose and to consider how our governmental system is working for ourselves and our posterity.

All entries should reflect the student's interpretation of the theme by responding to the following prompt:

Explain or depict why the separation of powers is important to preserving freedom.

Deadline

Electronically submit your completed entry form and your typed essay (12-point font, double-spaced) to Bree Trevino at btrevino@texasbar.com. All 2018 Law Student Division Essays and entry forms must be received **by 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 11, 2018 (EXTENDED DEADLINE)**

Award Guidelines

Two award recipients will be chosen from all of the Law Student Division applicants (Texas and out-of-state Law Student Division members only may apply). Both award recipients will receive \$1,000. All decisions will be final.

Judging Criteria

The judges will use the following criteria when evaluating each essay:

Interpretation of the Theme	50%
Writing Style	20%
Clarity	10%
Factual Accuracy	10%
Grammatical Mechanics	10%
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TOTAL	100%

Eligibility Rules

- ★ The Essay Contest is for State Bar of Texas Law Student Division members only.
- ★ The essay must be written in response to the theme.
- ★ One Law Student Division Essay entry per student will be accepted.
- ★ The essay must be no longer than 5 typewritten, double-spaced pages in 12 point font.
- ★ The submitted work must be the student's original work.
- ★ The essay must be submitted with the completed entry form on the back of this application.



STATE BAR OF TEXAS LAW STUDENT DIVISION
2018 Essay Contest Entry Form
(Please print)

Name Law Student Division Member #

Address

City State Zip

Telephone

Email

Law School

Essay Title

Applicant Signature Date

**MUST BE RECEIVED
NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY, May 11, 2018
AT 5:00 P.M.**

Please send entry form and essay to:
Bree Trevino
Law Student Division
btrevino@texasbar.com
For questions, please call (800) 204-2222, ext. 1518