

LAW DAY 2019

Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society

2019

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.

2019 LAW DAY THEME

FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE SOCIETY

In the United States and around the world, freedom of speech and the press are among the most important foundations for a free society. Free speech and free press are prominent topics in public discourse and litigation. It is impossible to imagine a free society without these individual liberties, yet historical and current debates surrounding them continually challenge us to consider their boundaries and resilience. Changes in technology have reshaped how free speech and free press work in the everyday world. Law Day 2019 offers the opportunity to explore this pair of freedoms by probing their history and considering their future. Should all speech be "free?" What is the role of government in regulating or protecting the press? Should speech or the press be constrained through laws or norms? Can a free society exist without free speech and free press? The 2019 Law Day theme—Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society—focuses on these cornerstones of representative government and calls on us to understand and protect these rights to ensure, as the U.S. Constitution proposes, "the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity."

All entries should reflect the student's interpretation of the 2019 Law Day theme by responding to the following prompt: *Explain or depict how today's society is impacted by freedom of speech and freedom of the press.*

Deadline

Electronically submit your completed entry form and your typed essay (12-point font, double-spaced) to Bree Trevino at btrevino@texasbar.com. All 2019 Law Student Division Essays and entry forms must be received **by 5:00 p.m. Monday, May 13, 2019**

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
2019 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
MONDAY, May 13,
2019 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