

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

LAW  
DAY

2023

*Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration*

## 2023 LAW DAY CONTESTS

President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day in 1958 as a way to challenge Americans to understand how the rule of law impacts their lives and to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in a democracy. The State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association celebrate the importance of the rule of law and its impact on our nation and local communities by hosting statewide editorial, photo, and poster contests based on the American Bar Association Law Day yearly theme. The State Bar sponsors the statewide editorial and photo contest, and co-sponsors the statewide poster contest with the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

Local bars and young lawyer affiliates are encouraged to hold local contests and submit their first-place winners in each category to the State Bar for the statewide contest. **The State Bar will accept only one entry per category from each local bar association. Entries must place in a local contest to be allowed submission into the statewide contest. Please submit your forms and winning entries digitally via flash drive or email. The deadline for statewide submissions is Wednesday, March 29, 2023.**

### 2023 LAW DAY THEME

#### CORNERSTONES OF DEMOCRACY: CIVICS, CIVILITY, AND COLLABORATION

The 2023 Law Day theme is “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.” The American Bar Association invites all the people of the United States to join together on May 1, 2023, in rebuilding trust in our institutions, respect for one another, and our willingness to collaborate to address the challenges that face our nation.

In recent years, tensions in our democratic system have revealed deep divisions in American society. These divisions are aggravated by incivility in public discourse and insufficient understanding among many people about the Constitution and the way American government works. Together, however, we can collaborate to overcome our differences, resolve our disputes, and preserve our democracy and republic. To that end, members of the legal profession can lead the way in promoting civics, civility, and collaboration—the cornerstones of our democracy.

All entries should reflect the student’s interpretation of the 2023 Law Day theme by responding to the following prompt:

**Explain or depict how pursuing civics, civility, and collaboration could help our society improve public discourse and inspire greater understanding of the Constitution and American government.**

#### STATEWIDE PRIZES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

The prizes for the first-, second-, and third-place winners of the statewide contests in each category will be mailed to the winners to the address given on their entry form.

Below is an explanation of the prizes.

##### EDITORIAL CONTEST

1st Place: \$1,000 and certificate; 2nd Place: \$500 and certificate; 3rd Place: \$250 and certificate

##### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

1st Place: \$400 and certificate; 2nd Place: \$200 and certificate; 3rd Place: \$100 and certificate

##### POSTER CONTEST

1st Place: \$200 gift certificate; 2nd Place: \$100 gift certificate; 3rd Place: \$50 gift certificate

*The prizes above represent a scholarship award from the State Bar of Texas. In order to remain tax free for IRS purposes, this scholarship award must be used for education-related expenses. It will be up to the individual receiving the award to furnish documentation in case of an IRS audit.*

## 2023 STATEWIDE LAW DAY STUDENT CONTEST RULES

Local bar associations or young lawyer affiliates will submit their local first-place contest entries into the statewide Law Day contests. Statewide entries must be received by the State Bar of Texas by **Wednesday, March 29, 2023**. Entries must place in a local contest to be allowed submission into the statewide contest.

### EDITORIAL CONTEST

1. Students from 9th grade to 12th grade are invited to take part in the editorial contest.
2. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the entrant's and/or the local bar association's responsibility.
3. The editorial must be the student's original work.
4. The editorial must be written in response to the following prompt: **Explain or depict how pursuing civics, civility, and collaboration could help our society improve public discourse and inspire greater understanding of the Constitution and American government.**
5. The editorial must be no longer than 500 words.
6. The editorial must be typewritten and double-spaced.
7. The editorial must include a cover page with the following information: name of student, the title of the editorial, name of high school, and city of residence.
8. Each page of the editorial submission must include a header with the title and page number only.
9. The editorial must show critical analysis and be based on historical evidence.
10. The editorial must be accompanied by the entry form. The entry form must be fully completed and signed by the student's parent or guardian. Both the entry form and the editorial submission must be submitted in digital format via flash drive or email and the files must be clearly labeled.
11. By entering, the student gives the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association the right to reproduce material submitted in any medium without time, use, or territorial limitation as long as it is for non-commercial purposes.
12. The State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association bear no responsibility for lost or damaged statewide entries.

### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

1. Students from 6th grade to 12th grade are invited to take part 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.
3. Photographs must be the student's original work.
4. Photographs must reflect the 2023 Law Day theme and prompt: **Explain or depict how pursuing civics, civility, and collaboration could help our society improve public discourse and inspire greater understanding of the Constitution and American government.**
5. Color and black and white photographs are eligible.
6. Photographs should not have been published in any medium and should have been taken after June 1, 2022.
7. Photographs larger than 8 x 10 inches, or those that are mounted or framed, are not eligible for the contest.

8. The entrant must submit a digital version of the photography entry only. No hard copies of the work will be accepted.
9. The photograph file must be accompanied by a digital version of the entry form. The entry form must be fully completed and signed by the student's parent or guardian.
10. By entering, the student gives the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association the right to reproduce material submitted in any medium without time, use, or territorial limitation as long as it is for non-commercial purposes.
11. The State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association bear no responsibility for lost or damaged statewide entries.

## **POSTER CONTEST**

1. There are multiple categories for the poster contest: K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade, and 9th-12th grade.
2. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the entrant's and/or the local bar association's responsibility.
3. The poster entry must be a digital photo file of the student's original work.
4. The poster must reflect the 2023 Law Day theme and prompt: **Explain or depict how pursuing civics, civility, and collaboration could help our society improve public discourse and inspire greater understanding of the Constitution and American government.**
5. The poster entry must be a photo of a two-dimensional drawing, painting, or collage. No computer-generated work will be eligible.
6. Entries must be a color photo of the original poster created by the entrant.
7. Posters larger than 25 x 32 inches are not eligible.
8. The poster photo must be accompanied by a digital version of the entry form. The entry form must be fully completed and signed by the student's parent or guardian.
9. By entering, the student gives the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association the right to reproduce material submitted in any medium without time, use, or territorial limitation as long as it is for non-commercial purposes.
10. The State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association bear no responsibility for lost or damaged statewide entries.

## 2023 LAW DAY AWARDS ENTRY AND RELEASE FORM

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Primary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

This entry is for (check one):

Editorial Contest

Photography Contest

Poster Contest

Title of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENTAL PERMISSION

I hereby grant my child permission to participate in the statewide 2023 Law Day contests. I have read the contest rules, and my child's entry complies with the rules.

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Local Bar Use Only*

**Instructions:** A digital version of this form should be submitted by the local bar association or young lawyer affiliate on behalf of each student entrant for the statewide Law Day contests. Please ensure that this form is fully completed and accompanies each digital entry before sending it to the State Bar of Texas via email or flash drive. Entries must be received by **Wednesday, March 29, 2023**. The State Bar will only accept one entry per category from each local bar association. **All entries and forms will be accepted as digital files only. No hardcopy entries or entry forms will be accepted. All entries and entry forms must be clearly labeled.** Please send your flash drive or email containing all entries and entry forms to the following address:

**If mailing flashdrive using USPS:**

**State Bar of Texas**

**Local Bar Services**

**P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487**

**Tel: (512) 427-1514**

**Email: localbars@texasbar.com**

**If sending flashdrive using Fed-Ex or UPS:**

**State Bar of Texas**

**Local Bar Services**

**1414 Colorado, Austin, TX 78701**

**Tel: (512) 427-1514**

**Email: localbars@texasbar.com**

Name of Local Bar Association Submitting Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL TIMELINE FOR 2023 LAW DAY

October – November	Local bars organize and plan local contests.
December – February	Determine which schools or extracurricular groups will participate in your local contest and distribute your local contest materials.
March	Hold judging for local contests and digitally submit first-place winners in each category to the State Bar of Texas for the statewide contest by <b>Wednesday, March 29, 2023</b> .
April – May	Recognize winners at local Law Day festivities.
Mid-April	Statewide winners and their bar associations notified.
May 1	Law Day celebrated nationally.

Please visit our website at [texasbar.com/lawday](https://texasbar.com/lawday) to view our 2023 Law Day Tool Kit and more information.

Or, visit the American Bar Association's website at [americanbar.org](https://americanbar.org).

For additional information, please contact:

State Bar of Texas

Tel: (512) 427-1514

Email: [localbars@texasbar.com](mailto:localbars@texasbar.com)