



**MIAMI BEACH BAR ASSOCIATION
LAW DAY CONTEST 2023**

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

Essays: Grades 1-12

Posters: Grades K-8

First Place: \$100 Visa Card + Law Day Luncheon

Second Place : \$75

Third Place: \$50

Deadline: Friday, April 14, 2023

[2023 Contest Rules Attached](#)

See your school's contest coordinator for details
or contact Freddi Mack at
freddimack@miamibeachfl.gov or (305) 673-7000, ext. 26475.



MIAMI BEACH BAR ASSOCIATION
2023 LAW DAY
POSTER & ESSAY CONTESTS

THEME

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

The United States has a proud history as one of the oldest continuing democracies in human history. Over the course of nearly 250 years, it has experienced wonderful growth—although not without facing many obstacles and challenges along the way. People around the world have long looked to the United States as a model of a republic based on democratic principles.

The United States is now, however, at a critical moment in its national history. We face a country divided over many issues—voting rights, policing, public health, and climate change, to name a few. These divisions have roiled our politics. We have experienced decreasing faith in institutions and a growing distrust of one another. We have seen attacks on the justice system, the norms of our democracy, and the rule of law. These challenges are aggravated by a general lack of understanding of civics and by incivility in our public discourse. In this time of division, the legal profession must lead the way in promoting civics, civility, and collaboration—the cornerstones of our democracy—to restore confidence in our democratic institutions, in the judicial system, and to protect the rule of law.

CONTEST RULES

ESSAYS (GRADES 1-12 ONLY):

Essays should be **handwritten on lined paper or typewritten in 12-point Arial font, double-spaced, include a word count, and scanned or saved in .pdf or Word**. Essay entries will be judged on creativity, originality, proper grammar and usage, and expression of this year's theme, **"Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration."** Prize categories and word limits are:

Grades 1-2	100 words
Grades 3-4	100 words
Grades 5-6	200 words
Grades 7-8	300 words
Grades 9-12	400 words

Only one student per entry, and only one entry per student (a student may submit both an essay and a poster).

For Essay entries, teachers should:

- **save the .pdf or Word document labeled with the student's Full Name and Grade**, for example, "Mary Smith 8,"
- **save all the teacher's poster entries in a folder labeled with the School Name, "Essays" and the grade levels category, and the teacher's Full Name**, for example, "Nautilus Essays Grades 7-8 Jane Brown" (if you have students in multiple categories, you will need to separate your students into multiple folders – one for each category as listed above and below, e.g., "Essays Grades 7-8" and "Essays Grades 9-12" or "Posters Grades 7-8"), and
- **email the entire folder** to Freddi Mack at freddimack@miamibeachfl.gov. If you have students in multiple grade categories, you will need to separate your students into multiple folders for submission. Please do NOT open, download, or share any folders or files with any other teachers.

If any of this information is missing, the entry(ies) may be disqualified. For this reason, teachers may wish to email their contact information, including mobile phone number, to Freddi Mack at freddimack@miamibeachfl.gov and let her know what folders the teacher submitted.

POSTERS (GRADES K-8 ONLY):

Posters should be on 22" x 28" poster board with a variety of media such as paint, crayon, pencil, photographs, magazine pictures, etc., with an optional statement of 25 words or less describing how the poster reflects the theme. Poster entries will be judged on creativity, originality, artistic skill, and expression of this year's theme, "**Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.**" Prize categories are:

Grades K-2
Grades 3-4
Grades 5-6
Grades 7-8

Only one student per entry, and only one entry per student (a student may submit both an essay and a poster).

For Poster entries, teachers should:

- ***photograph the front of the poster,***
- ***save the photograph labeled with the student's Full Name and Grade,*** for example, "John Young 4,"
- ***save all the teacher's poster entries in a folder labeled with the School Name, "Posters," and the teacher's Full Name,*** for example, "Treasure Island Posters Grades 7-8 Jane Brown" (if you have students in multiple categories, you will need to separate your students into multiple folders – one for each category as listed above and below, e.g., "Posters Grades 7-8" and "Posters Grades 5-6" or "Essays Grades 7-8"), and
- ***email the entire folder*** to Freddi Mack at freddimack@miamibeachfl.gov. If you have students in multiple grade categories, you will need to separate your students into multiple folders for submission. Please do NOT open, download, or share any folders or files with any other teachers.

If any of this information is missing, the entry(ies) may be disqualified. For this reason, teachers may wish to email their contact information, including mobile phone number, to Freddi Mack at freddimack@miamibeachfl.gov and let her know what folders the teacher submitted.

DEADLINE

The deadline for submission of all entries is **Friday, April 14, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.**

PRIZES

Visa gift cards will be awarded to First, Second, and Third Place winners (\$100, \$75, and \$50, respectively) in each of the nine (9) competition levels listed above. All students will receive their prizes -- to include gift cards, certificates of recognition, and copies of the U.S. constitution – by mail to their teachers.

All First Place winners (nine (9) students) and a parent or guardian with each will be invited to be our guests at the Miami Beach Bar Association's Law Day Luncheon, where these First Place students will receive their awards (it is not necessary to attend the luncheon to receive an award). The student may invite additional family members, teachers, and administrators to the luncheon at a discounted rate.

The luncheon will be held on or about May 1st at a Miami Beach venue to be announced.

MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) to learn more about this year's Law Day theme and to hear the ABA President speak about Law Day. The Law Day Planning Guide, which you can access [here](#), is a great resource for ideas on developing and expressing the theme. Contact MBBA's Freddi Mack at freddimack@miamibeachfl.gov or (305) 673-7000, ext. 26475, with any questions.