

SEATAC MUNICIPAL COURT

2014 LAW WEEK ESSAY CONTEST

To illustrate the Law Week Theme “American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters,” the SeaTac Municipal Court is holding an essay contest for students between the ages of 17 and 25. The contest is open to all students enrolled in a school who currently attend a high school or college located within one of the three following zip codes: 98188, 98198, or 98168. The essay must discuss the importance of participating in the voting process (see below for an excerpt from the American Bar Association explaining this year’s Law Day theme, and feel free to visit www.lawday.org for additional information*). Discussion topics include the following:

*“ One of our most cherished national ideals, expressed eloquently by Abraham Lincoln, is “government of the people, by the people, for the people.” It is a principle enshrined in our Nation’s founding documents, from the Declaration of Independence’s assurance that governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed, to the opening three words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, “We the People.”

The right to vote is the very foundation of government by the people. For this reason, striving to establish and protect every citizen’s right to vote has been a central theme of American legal and civic history. Much of the struggle on voting rights began decades ago, but the work is far from complete, and a citizen’s right to cast a ballot remains at risk today.

As we approach the 50th anniversaries of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 2014 Law Day theme, **American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters**, calls on every American to reflect on the importance of a citizen’s right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in our democracy.” – *American Bar Association, Law Day 2014*, www.lawday.org

The essay must not exceed 900 words. The SeaTac Municipal Court will accept one entry per student. The essay submitted must be an original work, must include a list of references, and must be typewritten on 8.5” x 11” paper. All submissions must include a word count (the title, page labeling, and the list of sources are excluded from the word count). Entries must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman or equivalent font with a one-inch margin on all sides of the page. Essays must be submitted in Microsoft Word format. Each page of the essay must be numbered and clearly labeled on the bottom of each page with the student’s name, age and email address.

Each essay will be evaluated according to adherence to these instructions as well as the merit of its contents, originality, neatness, spelling, grammar, and form. The odds of winning are proportional to the number of entries received.

Two copies of the essay must be received by SeaTac Municipal Court no later than noon March 31, 2014. Entries may be mailed or delivered to: SeaTac Municipal Court, 4800 S. 188th Street, SeaTac, Washington 98188. Incomplete entries, late entries, and entries that do not comply with any

rules or requirements of this contest will not be considered. All essay submissions must be accompanied by the LAW WEEK ESSAY CONTEST Submission Forms. Any essay that is not accompanied by the LAW WEEK ESSAY CONTEST Submission Forms will not be considered.

The Winner of the 2014 Law Week Essay Contest will receive a \$150 gift card and will have their essay (without page labels) accessible on the Court's webpage. The winning author will be recognized at the City of SeaTac Regular Council Meeting on April 22, 2014, at 6:00 pm. The Council meetings are recorded and accessible on SeaTV (also available for viewing on the City of SeaTac website) so that other friends and family will be able to view the author receiving recognition. The essay or portions of the essay may also be displayed within the Court Lobby area and in other publications such as local newspapers. The winner of this contest will be notified through the contact information provided on the submission forms and can expect to be notified no later than April 15, 2014; at that time, the author must provide verification that they are a current high school or college student, and that they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements to the satisfaction of the judge panel. The author who submits the essay chosen by the judging panel as the winner must verify their eligibility (age and current student status) before being declared the winner. Failure to provide proof of eligibility within the time limit set by the judging panel results in disqualification, and another submission will be selected as the winner, subject to the same conditions.

All submissions become the property of the SeaTac Municipal Court for purposes of promoting Law Week and Court related activities and will not be returned. In consideration of SeaTac Municipal Court's acceptance of the essay, the author grants to the SeaTac Municipal Court the exclusive right to publish, print, republish, reprint, and use the essay or portions of the essay for all non-commercial purposes without compensation and without additional notification or permission of the entrant, parent, or guardian, including use of the essay or portions of the essay on promotional materials for Law Week and in all publications such as the SeaTac Municipal Court Newsletter, on the Court's webpage, as well as other digital and media outlets and in merchandising. The author grants SeaTac Municipal Court the authority to submit a copy of the essay or portion of the essay to the National Law Day organization to promote SeaTac Municipal Court's Law Week activities. The author also grants the SeaTac Municipal Court the right to use the author's name and/or likeness without compensation and without additional notification or permission of the entrant, parent, or guardian for use in publishing, promoting, advertising and publicizing SeaTac Municipal Court's Law Week, Court related activities, and in publications in which the essay appears. Essays submitted may be subject to public disclosure laws. If selected as a winning entry, SeaTac Municipal Court will edit the entry to delete labeling information including author email address prior to publication.

SeaTac Municipal Court will administer any and all aspects of the Contest, including, without limitation, evaluating a student's qualification or material submission, judge selection, review of entry documents and information, determination of prize winners, all of which is in the sole and absolute discretion of SeaTac Municipal Court. Any and all decisions of the Court relating to the administration of the Contest are final in all respects and no student, parent /guardian or person or organization related thereto, has a right to appeal, contest, and dispute or otherwise challenge such administration.

SeaTac Municipal Court is not responsible for 1) incorrect or inaccurate entry information whether caused by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized by this contest or by any human error which may occur in the processing of entries into this contest; or 2) for lost, late, misdirected or delayed entries or electronic transmission errors or technical malfunctions. If for any reason, the Contest is interrupted, delayed or negatively affected by any causes beyond the control of SeaTac Municipal Court, SeaTac Municipal Court reserves the right to cancel, modify or delay the Contest.

2014 Law Week Essay Contest

Student Information & Release Form

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. THIS INFORMATION IS USED FOR NOTIFICATION, CERTIFICATES AND
RECOGNITION.
INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

STUDENT INFORMATION

NAME: _____ AGE: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT): _____
If Under Age 18:
PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME(S): _____
PARENT PHONE: _____ PARENT WORK PHONE: _____
PARENT EMAIL: _____

SCHOOL

SCHOOL NAME: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY

TITLE OF ENTRY: _____
DESCRIPTION: _____

Please include the topic discussed within the essay.

ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR ORIGINAL WORK WRITTEN IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ON THE
DESIGNATED TOPIC AND INCLUDE THE LIST OF SOURCES USED WITHIN THE ESSAY.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE RELEASE FORM ON PAGE 2.

2014 Law Week Essay Contest

Student Information & Release Form

PAGE 2 OF 2

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

STUDENT NAME: _____ AGE: _____
TITLE OF ENTRY: _____

ORIGINALITY CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the essay entry described above is an original work of authorship by the undersigned student and that it is not copied from, nor does it include, any other person's copyrighted work.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____
PARENT SIGNATURE (If under age 18) _____

RELEASE

I(We), the undersigned, represent that the essay entry described above is an original work of authorship personally created by the undersigned student to which the student is entitled copyright protection. In consideration for the acceptance of the essay entry by the SeaTac Municipal Court for the Law Week Essay Contest and intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned grant the SeaTac Municipal Court the right to publicly display the essay entry, if it is selected for display, in accordance with the rules of the Essay Contest. The undersigned acknowledge that the final decision regarding the suitability of an essay entry to be displayed in the Court will be made by the Court. The undersigned also grant the Court, the City, and their employees and agents the right to reproduce and publish the essay entry for any non-commercial purpose without compensation and without additional notification or permission from the author, parent or guardian. The undersigned further waive any and all claims against the Court, the City, and their employees and agents, from any and all liability for damage, loss, or misappropriation of the essay entry during and subsequent to the Essay Contest. The undersigned further agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Court, the City, and their employees and agents against any and all claims of any nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, claims of copyright infringement, by any party whatsoever, arising out of or in any way related to the submission of the essay entry in the Essay Contest.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (If under age 18) _____