Justices Help State Bar Group Distribute Law Day Awards
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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Chief Justice Evan Jenkins, Justice Tim Armstead, and Justice John Hutchison on Monday helped the West Virginia State Bar Women in the Profession Committee congratulate inaugural Law Day contest award winners.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded Law Day in 1958 to celebrate the role of law in America. Law Day events are held on or near May 1. For the West Virginia Law Day contests, students had the option of using either the 2020 Law Day theme, "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100," or the 2021 theme, "Advancing the Rule of Law Now."

"The Rule of Law and women's right to vote are so important to our state and nation. To everyone who participated, thank you on behalf of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals," Chief Justice Evan Jenkins said during the virtual event.

In January, the State Bar committee led by Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties) Judge Bridget Cohee invited students across West Virginia to participate in contests in essay-writing, poetry, songwriting and performance, poster creation, and social media marketing. There were about 120 entries, and prizes were given for winners in three school levels (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) for each medium and overall. Prize packages and certificates were donated by the West Virginia State Bar and the Bar Associations of Cabell, Monongalia, and Harrison Counties.

Many of the award-winning entries are available on Twitter at #WVLawDay2021.

Following the award presentation, Chief Justice Jenkins gave a virtual tour of the Supreme Court Chamber, Justice Armstead talked about the branches of government, and Justice Hutchison gave an overview of the levels of the West Virginia court system.

The winners are:
Overall "Best in Show" – Poster by August Owen, Morgantown High School
Overall "Best in Show" Second Place – Essay by Isabella Ferrell, Morgantown High School

Overall "Best in Show" Third Place – Poem by Annabelle Cipoletti, John Adams Middle School, Charleston

High School Poster Award
First Place – August Owen, Morgantown High School
Second Place – Rachel Morgan, Bridgeport High School

High School Poem Award
First Place – Sophie Raines, Independence High School, Raleigh County

High School Essay Award
First Place – Isabella Ferrell, Morgantown High School
Second Place – Emma Sherman, Musselman High School, Berkeley County
Third Place – Sophie Raines, Independence High School, Raleigh County

Middle School Song Award
First Place – Lila June Wright, Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School
Second Place – Michael Hutnick, St. Michael Parish Middle School, Wheeling

Middle School Social Media Award
First Place – Jocelyn Dally, St. Michael Parish Middle School, Wheeling
Second Place – Addison Hanson, St. Michael Parish Middle School, Wheeling
Third Place – Will Medovic, St. Michael Parish Middle School, Wheeling

Middle School Poem Award
First Place – Annabelle Cipoletti, John Adams Middle School, Charleston

Middle School Poster Award
First Place – Lauryn and Anabella Blatt, St. Michael Parish Middle School, Wheeling
Second Place – Abigail Rogers, St. Michael Parish Middle School, Wheeling
Third Place – Nino Jerome, St. Michael Parish Middle School, Wheeling

Middle School Essay Award
First Place – Liam Shinn, St. Michael Parish Middle School, Wheeling
Second Place – Matthew Bench, St. Michael Parish Middle School, Wheeling
Third Place – Jawuan Jackson, Mount View Middle School, McDowell County

Elementary School Essay Award
First Place – Lucy Groves, Petersburg Elementary School
Second Place – Charolette Rexrode, Petersburg Elementary School
Third Place – Brielle Faith Lyons, Oceana Elementary School

Elementary School Poster Award
First Place – Alayna Perkins and Cadence Campbell, Prichard Elementary School
Second Place – Belanna Moyers, Petersburg Elementary School
Third Place – Lucy Groves, Petersburg Elementary School