



Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

News

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Supreme Court, State Bar Recognize 2025 Law Day Contest Winners

For release Friday, May 2, 2025

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, in cooperation with the West Virginia State Bar’s Women in the Profession Committee, on Thursday recognized winners of the [2025 Law Day](#) contest during an awards ceremony at the state Capitol in Charleston.

Established in 1958 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Law Day celebrates the rule of law and encourages a deeper understanding of the legal system. The theme for the May 1 event is set annually by the American Bar Association. This year’s theme was, “The Constitution’s Promise: Out of Many, One.”

“Law Day is a tremendously important day in our nation, as we commemorate that we are a government of laws, not of men,” said Chief Justice William R. “Bill” Wooton. “The strength of our democracy is an informed citizenry, and this event not only provides our students an opportunity to learn about the foundation of our democracy but encourages them to express its importance in interesting and creative ways.”

The annual Law Day Contest for Students is organized and judged by members of the State Bar’s Women in the Profession Committee. Committee Co-Chair Jami Cooper and Judge Bridget Cohee of the Twenty-Eighth Judicial Circuit (Jefferson County) spearheaded efforts for this year’s event.

“Now celebrating its fifth year, the Law Day Student Contest has gathered interest from students in every grade from every corner of the state,” Judge Cohee said. “Every year, our contest judges enjoy and continue to be impressed by the thoughtful presentations submitted by our students. We thank them and their teachers for the work they put into their creative entries and hope it sparks continued interest in learning about the law. I also want to thank Jami Cooper, Kenadee Murphy of the State Bar and all the members of the Women in the Profession Committee who work hard each year to make this wonderful event possible.”

The 2025 Law Day Student Contest was open to students in grades K-12. The contest invited submissions in any of five categories – digital art, poster, essay, poetry, or original song.

The Women in the Profession Committee selected winners across the elementary, middle and high school age groups, as well as three overall “Best-in-Show” winners. Select students were invited to read or perform their submissions during Thursday’s awards event.

This year’s winners were:

Elementary School Awards

Digital Art Category

- 1st Place: Nora Wang of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Christina Pizanias.
- 2nd Place: Laiyah Reid of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.

Poster Category

- 1st Place: Jasmine Bhatt of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.
- 2nd Place: Nicholas Tanojo of C.W. Shipley Elementary School in Harpers Ferry; teacher Amanda Coon.
- 3rd Place: Harper Cummings of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.

Essay Category

- 1st Place: Ella Hathaway of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Christina Pizanias.
- 2nd Place: Yousif Al-Sinbol of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.
- 3rd Place: Fatima Azam of North Elementary School; teacher Robyn Addie.

Poetry Category

- 1st Place: Pushkal Solanki of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Christina Pizanias.
- 2nd Place: Sylvie Yao of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Christina Pizanias.
- 3rd Place: Chelsea Bolyard, homeschool student from Newburg, Preston County; parents Nick and Melissa Bolyard.
- Honorable Mention: Landy Beauchesne of On Target Academy in Thornton; teacher Rachel Hoosier.

Song Category

- 1st Place: Danny Flanagan, “The Will of the Constitution,” of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Christina Pizanias.
- 2nd Place: Danny Flanagan, “Together for a Day,” of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Christina Pizanias.

Middle School Awards

Digital Art Category

- 1st Place: Cora Rogers, Iris Nest and Madysen Bumps of South Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Larry Bright.

- 2nd Place: Annie Cao of Suncrest Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Larry Bright.
- 3rd Place: Charlotte Grunau-Hawley of South Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Larry Bright.

Poster Category

- 1st Place: Genevieve Cannon-Blanchere of Mountaineer Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.
- 2nd Place: Emily Moore of Suncrest Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Larry Bright.
- 3rd Place: Anna Gerdes and Riya Zinn of Suncrest Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Larry Bright.

Essay Category

- 1st Place: Cara Zundell of Mountaineer Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.
- 2nd Place: Pratyush Bhardwaj of Suncrest Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Larry Bright.
- 3rd Place: Sophia Fritsch of Mountaineer Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.

Poetry Category

- 1st Place: Aaliyah Hamrick of Webster Springs Elementary School in Webster Springs; teacher Jennifer Proctor.
- 2nd Place: Mumayyaz “Mya” Alam and Zahra Abbas of Suncrest Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Larry Bright.
- 3rd Place: Christa Darrah of South Middle School in Morgantown; teacher Larry Bright.

High School Awards

Digital Art Category

- 1st Place: Dashiell “Dashie” Harms of Morgantown High School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.

Essay Category

- 1st Place: Jake Quinlan of Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg; teacher Melissa Butera.

Poetry Category

- 1st Place: Josephine “Joey” Herring of Morgantown High School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.
- 2nd Place: Clifford Drach of Morgantown High School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.
- 3rd Place: Chloe Addie of Morgantown High School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.

Song Category

- 1st Place: Natalie Bolyard homeschool student from Newburg, Preston County; parents Nick and Melissa Bolyard.

Overall “Best-in-Show” Winners

- Elementary School Division: Jasmine Bhatt of North Elementary School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.

- Middle School Division: Aaliyah Hamrick of Webster Springs Elementary School in Webster Springs; teacher Jennifer Proctor.
- High School Division: Josephine “Joey” Herring of Morgantown High School in Morgantown; teacher Robyn Addie.

Winning entries will be on display in the Supreme Court’s Judicial Learning Center, located across from the Supreme Court Courtroom on the third floor of the East Wing in the Capitol.

Video of the event is available on the Supreme Court’s YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@wvsupremecourt>.

A photo gallery is also available at: <https://wvcourts.smugmug.com/Photo-Galleries/2025/Events/May-1-2025-Law-Day-Contest>.

More information on Law Day is available at: <https://wvbar.org/2025lawday/>.

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