



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Justices Help State Bar Group Distribute Law Day Awards

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – On Monday, Chief Justice John Hutchison, Justice Beth Walker, Justice Tim Armstead, Justice William R. Wooton, and Justice C. Haley Bunn helped the West Virginia State Bar Women in the Profession Committee congratulate Law Day contest award winners. Chief Justice Hutchison also gave students a virtual tour of the Supreme Court Courtroom.

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. This year’s Law Day theme is “Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change.” The theme is set annually by the American Bar Association.

The Justices thanked the students and teachers who participated, saying the Constitution is the bedrock of the American justice system.

The West Virginia contest, which began last year, received a Law Day Outstanding Activity Award from the American Bar Association. The ABA recognized that the program “achieved broad outreach to the community and engaged target audiences in meaningful conversations to help foster understanding about the rule of law in our society” despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The West Virginia State Bar Women in the Profession Committee is led by attorneys Jami Cooper and Lee Hall, while Circuit Judge Bridget Cohee, Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties), led work on the Law Day program.

The committee asked students across the state to participate by submitting posters, essays, songs, poetry, and social media posts. There were 10 projects submitted by 26 elementary school students and 75 projects submitted by 103 middle school students. Six high school projects were submitted. Submissions were from Wheeling, Morgantown, Clarksburg, Buckhannon, Newburg, Barboursville, Inwood, Martinsburg, and Crab Orchard.

Prize packages and certificates were donated by the West Virginia State Bar and the Bar Associations of Monongalia and Harrison Counties, the Eastern Panhandle Bar Association, and ChildLaw Services, Inc. A list of the winners follows.

Elementary School

Poster First Place: Luke Freeland & Marcus Recchio (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Poster Second Place: Khloe Wise (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Poster Third Place: Meredith Komoroski (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Essay First Place: Cecilia Rotilio (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Poem First Place: Sophia Benson, Grace Przybysz, Lilly Spiker (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Overall Elementary School Winner: Poem by Sophia Benson, Grace Przybysz, Lilly Spiker (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Middle School Visual Arts

Poster First Place: Cecilia Sweeney (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Poster Second Place: Kaila Blatt & Ellie Manning (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Poster Third Place: Grace Frangos & Hailey Meintel (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Social Media First Place: Sarah Wendell (Mountaineer Middle School – Morgantown)

Social Media Second Place: Caleb Britton & Caleb Weitholter (Mountaineer Middle School – Morgantown)

Middle School Language Arts

Essay First Place: Jake Quinlan (Notre Dame High School – Clarksburg)

Second Place: Lucille Dahl (Suncrest Middle School – Morgantown)

Essay Third Place: Addison Miller (St. Michael's Parish School – Wheeling)

Poem First Place: C. Jack Howell (Mountaineer Middle School – Morgantown)

Poem Second Place: Jaelie Shank (Barboursville Middle School – Barboursville)

Poem Third Place: Claire Yoon (Suncrest Middle School – Morgantown)

Song First Place: Lila Wright (Buckhannon Upshur Middle School – Buckhannon)

Song Second Place: Jimmy Gregg & Jacob Weglinski (Mountaineer Middle School – Morgantown)

Overall Middle School Winner: Essay by Jake Quinlan (Notre Dame High School – Clarksburg)

High School

Essay First Place: Emma Sherman (Musselman High School – Inwood)

Essay Second Place: Natalie Bolyard (Homeschool – Newburg)

Essay Third Place: Taylor Strack (Berkeley County Teen Court – Martinsburg)

Poem First Place: Sophia Raines (Independence High School – Coal City)

Poem Second Place: Jacqueline Melia (Morgantown High School – Morgantown)

Social Media First Place: Abigail Oneal (Independence High School – Coal City)

Overall High School Winner: Poem by Sophia Raines (Independence High School – Coal City)