

Law Day Contests

Sponsored by

Washington County
Bar Association

Washington County
Bar Foundation

Observer-Reporter
Newspaper

Law Day U.S.A.

was established in 1958 by President Eisenhower to strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law.

All contest winners, parents, teachers, family, and friends are invited to attend the public **Law Day Celebration** at the Courthouse (date not yet scheduled).

Contest Deadline

Entries must be received at 119 S. College St., Washington, PA 15301 or to kathy@washcobar.org no later than **4pm, May 15, 2026.**

WCBA not responsible for late, misdirected, incomplete, or illegible entries, or incorrectly addressed or undelivered, undeliverable, or postage-due mail.

Contest Guidelines ALL CONTESTS

ALL entries must include entrant name, grade, school and contact EMAIL for the teacher, parent, or student. School-submitted entries must also include school mailing address and **teacher's email.**

Entry must have been created without the use of any A.I. assistance and solely by entrant(s), who must own all rights to reproduce and/or publish entry in any medium without restriction. Use of images and/or pictures/graphics from other/copyrighted media is strictly prohibited, and submissions containing such will be disqualified.

An entry cannot be submitted to more than one contest category. Entrant(s) cannot submit more than one entry per contest category.

Contest Judging

Prizes awarded for those entries that are, in relation to all received, **the most effective in expressing the Law Day theme and on their quality, originality, and creativity.** Judges' decisions are final. Sponsors reserve the right to limit or expand prizes depending on the #/quality of submissions received.

Any entry that includes any type of foul or vulgar language or pictures/graphics will be **disqualified.** Any submission that in any way contains or promotes words or pictures/graphics promoting discrimination based on race, gender, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political affiliation, or age will be **disqualified.** Entries should not promote a political party, political candidate, or partisan political affiliation; any entries that do will be **disqualified.**

Sponsors reserve right to display/reproduce entries in any Law Day promotions.

Contact WCBA to schedule an in-classroom speaker, "I Signed the Constitution!" or "Time to Adult! Turning 18: Legal Issues in the Real World" program.

2026 Law Day Theme

America 250: Honoring our Founding and Dreaming for the Future

Two hundred and fifty years ago, America's founders declared independence from a monarchy and established a nation based on the rule of law. From the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, until today, Americans have dreamed, and continue to dream, of ways to grow in upholding the Declaration's ideals of equality and justice for all. Under our government's structure of three co-equal branches which write, interpret, and carry out the rule of law, we strive to create a society in which no person is above the law, and all can pursue their dreams of life, liberty and happiness.

On this 250th birthday of our nation, what is YOUR dream for the future of America, and how can the rule of law and the ideals stated in the Declaration of Independence help us to achieve that dream?

Grades 2-5 Bookmark Contest

Format: Size 8.5 inches by 2.75 inches (tip: fold letter-size paper into fourths). Art must be hand-drawn, may be vertical (portrait) or horizontal (landscape), and must be **only** on one side with complete entrant info clearly printed on the back. Use any one-dimensional medium (pencil, ink, crayon, paint, etc.); do **not** attach 2-D items (tassels, buttons, etc.). Neatness, spelling, theme, and creativity considered. (No group entries)

Prizes: \$50 ~ First place
\$40 ~ Second Place
\$30 ~ Third Place
\$25 ~ Fourth Place
\$20 ~ Fifth Place
\$15 ~ Sixth Place

Grades 6-12 **NEW!** Roadside Billboard Contest

Format: All submissions must be one-sided, 6 inches high by 12 inches wide in **landscape** (horizontal) orientation. Submissions must use one-dimensional medium (markers, pencil, ink, crayon, paint, etc.) on plain white paper. Submissions must be **hand-drawn** (not computer-generated) using pictures/graphics, words, symbols, numbers, or other characters that reflect the theme. Do not staple, tape, or glue anything on to the paper; do not laminate. "Drive-by" appeal/clarity considered.

Prizes: \$200 ~ First Place
\$150 ~ Second Place
\$100 ~ Third Place

Note: group entries permitted (prize money split). Winning entries may be displayed on an area billboard, as well as in other Law Day promotions.

Explore the theme: lawday.org

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR COMPLETE RULES & GUIDELINES

Grades 6-12 Peeps Diorama Contest



Format: Create a box diorama using Peeps treats as characters plus other 2-D and 3-D elements.

May use any size box to "frame"/contain diorama within "walls" of the box (top, bottom, sides, back).

Entry must be represented in ONE unaltered photo (no digital editing). Email of entry **must** include the name(s)/grade year(s)/school of entrant(s); **descriptive/creative title** and 140-word (max.) written statement of entry's relevance to law day theme.

Prizes: \$200 ~ 1st Place
\$150 ~ 2nd Place
\$100 ~ 3rd Place

Note: group entries permitted (prize money split).

Email one unaltered photo of entry (.jpg format), to kathy@washcobar.org (**include title/description in body of email**). Committee may ask to display exceptionally well-done entries.

Grades 6-12 Editorial Essay Contest

Format: 500-word (max.), **editorial-style essay with a clear point-of-view/ OPINION about an issue related to the law day theme**, typed, single-spaced, one page. NO COVER SHEET. Top of page MUST include word count as well as entrant name, grade, school, and **email** of entrant, parent, or teacher. Style, content, grammar, spelling, and punctuation considered, as well as originality (no A.I.! Entries will be A.I.-checked!), creativity, and relevance to theme.

Prizes: \$200 ~ First Place
\$150 ~ Second Place
\$100 ~ Third Place

Note: Submit essays by email to kathy@washcobar.org. First place entry may appear in op-ed pages of Observer-Reporter newspaper.

Grades 6-12 Creative Arts Contest

Format: Visual, electronic and creative arts including painting, collage, fabric, photography, sculpture, film/video, poetry, song, etc.; no powerpoints unless there is a creative/artistic component. Entry **must** include **descriptive title** and 140-word (max.) written statement of entry's relevance to the law day theme.

Prizes: \$200 ~ First Place
\$150 ~ Second Place
\$100 ~ Third Place

Note: group entries permitted (prize money split). Submit video/electronic entries on USB drive in a standard format (.mov, .wmv, .mpg) or by link to an online file to kathy@washcobar.org, and include entry's title and written statement in body of email. **Non-electronic entries should be delivered to WCBA at 119 S. College St., Washington, PA by the deadline.**