

**POLK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY COMMITTEE**  
**2024 LAW DAY STUDENT COMPETITION**  
**(GRADES 6-12)**

**Dear Educator:**

Our annual **Law Day celebration** is almost here! As you may know, every year the Polk County Bar Association (PCBA) sponsors an educational competition for your students in honor of national Law Day. This is an opportunity for your students to showcase their creative talents, learn about important issues relating to the law, and **win prizes!** Last year, the prizes ranged from \$30-\$100! This year's competition will include visual arts, music and performing arts, essay, technology, and poetry categories for 6th through 12th grade students in Polk County. You, as a supporting educator, will also have a chance to win a prize based on **best classroom participation**, so consider getting your students involved today!

**What is Law Day?**

Law Day is recognized nationally each year on May 1 as a day of celebration aimed to strengthen the American heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under the law. Each year the American Bar Association chooses a theme for Law Day to help foster education and a deeper understanding of the legal system. **This year's theme is: "Voices of Democracy" – Recognizing that in democracies, the people rule.** The Voices of Democracy Law Day theme encourages Americans to participate in the 2024 elections by deepening their understanding of the electoral process; discussing issues in honest and civil ways; turning out to vote; and finally, helping to move the country forward after free and fair elections. In this way, Americans ensure that our government remains responsive to the wishes of the people. You can learn more about Law Day and the theme by going to the ABA Law Day website:

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/law-day/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/)

**Why Should Your Students Participate?**

- Your students learn more about the law and our legal system – and compete to win prizes!
- Curriculum opportunity for you: We would be happy to talk with your students about Law Day and this year's theme before they get to work on their submissions. The discussion can either be in-person or via video conferencing – whatever works best for your classroom!
- Opportunity for students to meet judges and attorneys in Polk County and display entries on the PCBA website.
- If you get the most students to participate, you could also win a prize for your classroom!

**How is the Competition Judged?**

- Judges will be looking for creative expression that demonstrates understanding of the theme and its main concepts – the expression can be curious, critical, serious, or humorous.
- Entries are judged by attorneys and judges and the PCBA Law Day Committee in Polk County in early April 2024.
- The entries will be judged in two groups: (1) Grades 6, 7, and 8; and (2) Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Each category will be evaluated separately. Winners will be honored at the PCBA Law Day Awards Celebration on **May 1, 2024**. We will notify you of the winners and provide more information about the celebration at that time.

**What Are the Types of Entries?**

- **Visual Arts entries (group projects allowed, but prize would be shared): must include:**
  - A title and short description of how the entry relates to the theme.
  - Visual Arts may be submitted in the form of any original two or three-dimensional medium, including painting, sculpture, graphic design and photography.
  - Photo or a short video of the entry must be emailed [lawday@pcbaonline.org](mailto:lawday@pcbaonline.org) for judging.
  - Winners will have arrangements made for pick up or drop off of their submission

- **Poetry entries - (individual project only)**
  - May be in the form of any traditionally recognized form: epic, blank verse, sonnets, haiku, etc.
  - Consider use of figurative language, imagery, pun, oxymoron, and personification.
  - One-page limit.
  - Must email submission to [lawday@pcbaonline.org](mailto:lawday@pcbaonline.org) for judging
  
- **Music and Performing Arts (group projects allowed, but prize would be shared): may be:**
  - In the form of:
    - An **original** musical composition (lyrics must be original, but precomposed melodies and background music are permissible) recorded in the following playable formats: YouTube or Windows Media Player. YouTube is preferred; **OR**
    - An **original** video production, such as a documentary or original drama recorded in the following formats: YouTube or Windows Media Player. YouTube is preferred.
  - Student entries may be shorter than 3 minutes in length, but should not be longer than 3 minutes.
  - All video and audio entries must be submitted via a link such as YouTube or reviewable with Windows Media Player to [lawday@pcbaonline.org](mailto:lawday@pcbaonline.org).
  
- **Essay entries (Individual project only)**
  - All essays should be between 200 and 500 words and either typed or hand written with standard formatting.
  - Must be emailed [lawday@pcbaonline.org](mailto:lawday@pcbaonline.org) to be judged
  
- **Technology entries must include: (Group projects allowed, but prize would be shared)**
  - A title, and Short description of how the entry relates to the theme.
  - Student entries may be shorter than 5 minutes in length, but should not be longer than 5 minutes.
  - Any video and audio entries must be submitted and playable on YouTube or Windows Media Player. This also includes a platform to view any informational or game apps created.
  - All entries must be submitted by email to [lawday@pcbaonline.org](mailto:lawday@pcbaonline.org)

#### What Else Do We Need to Know About the Competition?

- All entries must reflect the student’s view or understanding of the theme.
- All entries must be the student’s own work – no use of AI or chat GPT
- All entries must include a completed entry form and release of liability form below.
  - **Each entry must be signed by the student and include the release form.**
  - **A parent, guardian or teacher must also sign the entry form.**
- Deadline for all entries is **March 22, 2024.**
  - Entries must be emailed to [lawday@pcbaonline.org](mailto:lawday@pcbaonline.org)
- Teachers may submit all their students’ entries together.

#### Questions?

Contact:

Laura Lockwood - [lockwood@hartungschroeder.com](mailto:lockwood@hartungschroeder.com);

Thank you for your time! We look forward to talking with you soon about this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Laura Lockwood, PCBA Law Day Committee Chair

**About Polk County Bar Association:** The Polk County Bar Association is the largest local bar association in the state of Iowa. We provide continuing legal education, social and networking opportunities to our members. We are a non-profit, volunteer organization working to serve and improve the legal and judicial system while providing public service to the community.

**ENTRY FORM, RELEASE AND CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY**  
**2024 LAW DAY STUDENT COMPETITION**

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First and Last Name (Please Print or Type)

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Grade Level

Competition Category

School

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Home Address (Street, City, State and Zip Code)

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Home Telephone Number

E-mail Address

**CONSENT AND RELEASE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), agree to allow the Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee to use and display my artwork, music, video, essay or poetry entry wherever, whenever and however it sees fit to do so, including, but not limited to, display in various public places in and around Polk County and publication in a newsletter or other printed or electronic medium. I release the Polk County Bar Association, along with its officers, employees, agents, volunteers or others associated with this competition, from and against any liability for any damages that may occur in connection with this competition.

Signature of Student Entrant: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree and consent to the above.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY**

I/We certify that this entry is the original work created by:

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(Name of Student)

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(Student's Signature)

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(Signature of Teacher, Parent or Guardian)

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Name of Teacher, Parent or Guardian (Please Print or Type)

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Teacher's Telephone number

Teacher's E-mail Address

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Parent's/Guardian's Telephone Number

Parent's/Guardian's E-mail Address