

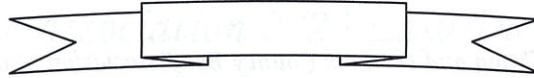


Polk County Bar Association

Law Day Celebration Ceremony

May 1, 2023

*Judicial Branch Building
1111 East Court Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa*



*Welcome from Polk County Bar Association
incoming President Stacie Codr*

Speakers at the Awards Ceremonies:

*Iowa State Trooper and former Iowa House Representative
Jon Thorup*

*Former Iowa House Representative
Mary Mascher*

PCBA Law Day Contest Winners

Awards Ceremonies in Courtroom:

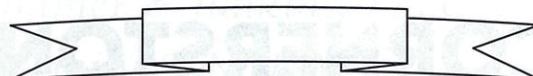
Teacher Awards

Student Awards

Closing Remarks

Optional Tour of the Building and Grounds

Reception in the Light Court



Polk County Bar Association 2023 Law Day Competition

Each year the American Bar Association and the Polk County Bar Association recognize Law Day to help foster education and a deeper understanding of the legal system. The Polk County Bar Association gives Polk County area students a chance to get creative with the law as part of our annual Law Day celebration. Students in grades K through 12 are invited to compete in the visual arts, music & performing arts, technology, essay, and poetry categories.

Law Day has been celebrated on or around May 1 since 1958 when President Dwight Eisenhower signed the proclamation declaring it a day to celebrate and strengthen the American heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under the law.

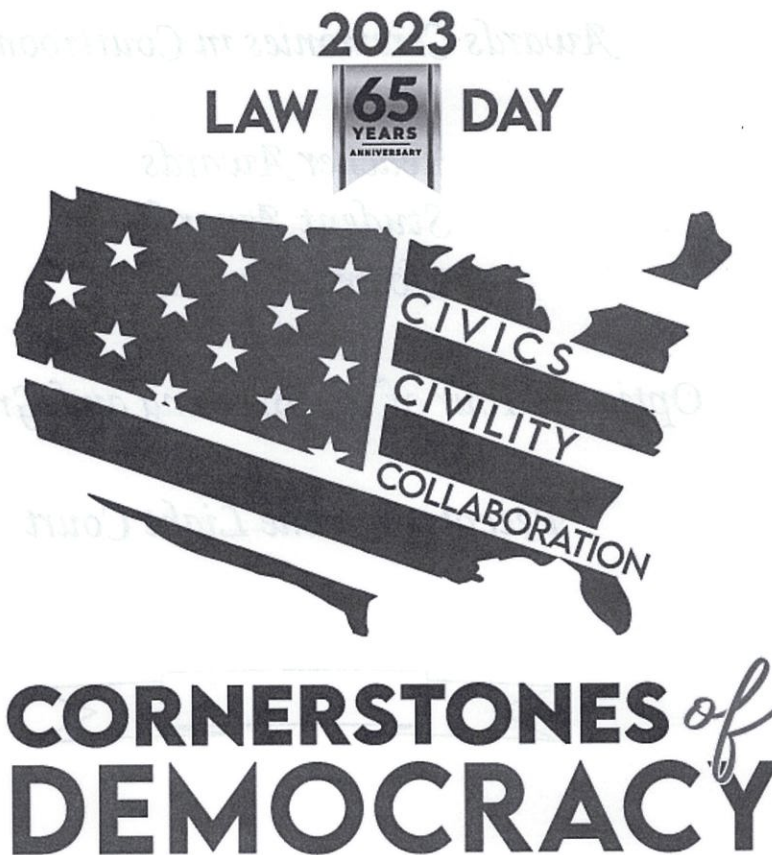
Cornerstones of Democracy – Civics, Civility, and Collaboration is the theme for 2023. In recent years, tensions in our democratic system have revealed deep divisions in American society. These divisions are aggravated by incivility in public discourse and insufficient understanding among many people about the Constitution and the way American government works. Together, however, we can collaborate to overcome our differences, resolve our disputes, and preserve our democracy and republic.

We wish to express our deep appreciation to the Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee for its continuing support of the Law Day program.

Enjoy the fruits of the students' creative labors!

Laura Lockwood and Sarah Jennings

Co-Chairs Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee



The Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee
presents
Polk County Bar Association 2023 Law Day Competition

Thank you to the following sponsors for their generous donations, which make the Law Day event possible, and a rewarding experience for students and teachers!

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The Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee
presents
Polk County Bar Association 2023 Law Day Competition

Elementary School Poster Competition

- 1st Place - Delanie Moeller, Southeast Elementary, Ankeny*
2nd Place - Lenore Vanalstine, Walnut Street School, Des Moines
3rd Place - Alex Wardell, Southeast Elementary, Ankeny

Elementary School Visual Arts Competition

- 1st Place - Rowan Kellenberger and Ethan Larson, Northeast Elementary, Ankeny*
2nd Place - Amelia Faddis, Ashland Ridge Elementary, Ankeny
3rd Place - Mallory Burke, Southeast Elementary, Ankeny

Elementary School Coloring Competition

- 1st Place - Saoirse McClure, Walnut Street School, Des Moines*
2nd Place - Camryn Edwards, St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic School, Ankeny
3rd Place - Rosa Kommavongsa, Walnut Street School, Des Moines

Elementary School Essay Competition

- 1st Place - Maelen Schnepf, Ashland Ridge Elementary, Ankeny*

Elementary School Technology Competition

- 1st Place - Reyansh Bulusu and Dylan Bratland, Northeast Elementary, Ankeny*
2nd Place - Landon Kenney, Northeast Elementary, Ankeny
3rd Place - Luke Von Busch and Austin Scheidecker, Prairie Trail Elementary, Ankeny

Elementary School Teacher Participation Award

- Ms. Cara Lutes-Swenson, Walnut Street School, Des Moines*

The Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee
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Polk County Bar Association 2023 Law Day Competition

Middle School Technology Competition

1st Place - Greta Lee, Northview Middle School, Ankeny
2nd Place - Aakansha Ganesh, Northview Middle School, Ankeny

Middle School Poetry Competition

1st Place - Srihari Kumaresan, Summit Middle School, Johnston
2nd Place - Thomas Dunne, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
3rd Place - Natalie Christopherson, South Middle School, Waukee
Honorable Mention – Roman Willkom, St. Augustin Catholic School, Des Moines

Middle School Essay Competition

1st Place - Brynlee Moeller, Parkview Middle School, Ankeny
2nd Place - Ishaan Karuna South Middle School, Waukee

Middle School Visual Arts Competition

1st Place - Paige Neighbors, Johnston Middle School
2nd Place - Adrienne Dobson, Johnston Middle School
3rd Place - Leah Enano and Nina Nayak, South Middle School, Waukee

Middle School Teacher Participation Award

Ms. Karlee McKibban, South Middle School, Waukee

*The Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee
presents
Polk County Bar Association 2023 Law Day Competition*

High School Poetry Competition

*1st Place - Celeste Rieder, Northview Middle School, Ankeny
2nd Place - William Carlyon, Valley High School, West Des Moines*

High School Essay Competition

*1st Place - Elizabeth Deng, Ankeny Centennial High School
2nd Place - William Carlyon, Valley High School, West Des Moines*

High School Visual Arts Competition

*1st Place - Sydney Heithoff, Northview Middle School, Ankeny
2nd Place - Hollin Hansen, Southview Middle School, Ankeny*

High School Technology Competition

1st Place - Josefina Willkom, Northview Middle School, Ankeny

High School Music & Performing Arts Competition

1st Place - Maia Bredice and Anna Bruns, Northview Middle School, Ankeny

High School Teacher Participation Award

Ms. Kathy Cooper, Northview Middle School, Ankeny

Law Day

By: Maelen Schnepf

Law. It keeps us safe. Do you feel protected? Or is that the problem in our nation? If we don't feel safe, we don't trust each other. If we don't trust each other, we don't want to live with them, do we?

That's the issue. We need to build trust in order to help the government and our people.

Do you feel like you are accepted? Do you feel like people trust you? Trust is the key to all relationships. If you don't trust the other person, you don't want to be around them. If you don't want to be around them, you won't feel comfortable when you are with them.

There are other reasons that we need to trust each other. Some of them involve other nations. If we don't trust other nations, who says there's not going to be a WWII? Nations have to trust each other to keep peace.

If we don't have peace, who's to say that we shouldn't be just one big nation? We've even tried that before. When Great Britain tried to send colonists to settle in America, it resulted in the American Revolution and Revolutionary War.

Laws help keep peace. People are put in jail if they try to break peace in violent ways. Laws protect us.

Laws and trust are important. They hold our world together.

Don't Pull the Trigger

by Srihari Kumaresan

Rights

We want more rights
Like the Right To Bear Arms
We need Arms as a way to protect ourselves
We are allowed to protect ourselves
Aren't we?
We need to protect our children
Don't we?
And if we can't,
Then how are we supposed to feel safe?
It is our right,
Isn't it?

Equality

We need equality
They need to learn that violence isn't the answer
They need to learn that it isn't okay
For People Of Color to be
Under-valued
Harassed
Beaten
And Killed
For their racial identity.
They can't keep using their guns
And deprive
Other Innocent Human Beings of life.
They need to understand that we can't control who
We're born as.
After all, if they were in our shoes
I'm sure they wouldn't want to be treated as we are.
They can't keep getting away with this.
Week After Week
Month After Month
Year After Year
There are always people who are exercising their
Right to Bear Arms
To Harm other people.
Something needs to change.

The election wasn't fair
Just what world do we live in?
A world where ballots aren't counted
A world where people vote twice
It's just not possible
Even FOX News said so
We *all* wanted *one* person as President
So what happened?
We need to protest
So let's grab our guns
And meet at the Capitol
To fight for our rights

Democracy is right

They just choose to believe otherwise
They say the election was rigged
But what evidence do they have?
Their own thoughts?
News Medias that are bribed to be biased?
None.
They have none.
So why bother?
Because they want a dictatorship.
They want one and only one person to call the shots.
To make the biggest decisions in the toughest of times.
But one person isn't really reliable, are they?
But they still don't listen.
They don't want to
For they fear that they might be wrong.
So what do they do?
They start riots.
Or a *peaceful protest*-as they called it.
Peaceful- an act not involving war or violence.
The exact opposite of what happened that horrid day.
Many world leaders called it an "attack on democracy"
The USA's democracy-one of the most unifying forces
Is at risk of being shot to death
So please, don't pull the trigger.

United States

By Thomas Dunne

Undergirding civics are

Necessary collaboration and

Inherent civility

To have

Everyone's

Differences celebrated and rights respected in society.

Studying rights and responsibilities of citizens and

Trusting the Constitution is foundational.

Abolishing the hatred that chains us and replacing with

Thoughtfulness for others is integral.

Equitable engagement for all is a must for us, and the

Sum is greater than the parts to reforge a greater nation and future.

By Natalie Christopherson

Don't Say Gay Iowa

What if American politicians didn't restrain LGBTQ rights?

What if Laws weren't passed that make people feel targeted?

What if we could all celebrate each other's identities?

What if everyone supported people that just want to be who they are?

There are 420 bills in the US that will restrain LGBTQ rights,

29 of which are in Iowa alone (aclu.org).

Why are 86% of trans kids being bullied because politicians are against progress (thetrevorproject.org)?

LGBTQ equality has been a challenge facing our nation since 1776.

Why don't we respect one another?

We're all just living our lives to the fullest,

Trying to achieve our goals.

Schools should be a sanctuary,
A place that kids can rely on even when at home,
All they get is disapproval.
A place where the teachers don't bring the outside world in,
So they can make the inside feel safer.

Without these don't say gay bills, kids can feel safer,
And find sanctuary in school, even though the outside world may be chaotic.
Even though they aren't accepted at home.
So once politicians see the kids that don't feel like they belong
So much so that they might move out of state,
Then hopefully there can be reform.

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By William Carlyon

Upon a hill

there stands a house

Two sides of strife and hate

stirring even a mouse

Boiling to kill

the opposite end

This house our ancestors bestowed

as Jesus granted blood, flesh, and fate

The other side making this abode

soon rend

To beat the opposite

they throw their chairs

To protect their house and make more great

they throw their bares

They even threw crit

telling to go off and roam

The ducking as madly doors flew around

they couldn't understand actions have weight

In their anger the floors couldn't be found

for they had thrown their own home

Even the pillars are gone

Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration

Brynlee Moeller

What do you know about civics, civility, and collaboration? Everyone has different visions and definitions of these words. To be honest, you are probably right, just not completely right. What we do know is that these vocabulary words are a very important part of the government. We need to do these things to thrive as a community.

When some people think of collaboration, we may think of group projects, working together to complete a poster, agreeing on each small piece. Some, when they think of collaboration, may think of working together to create safety and organization. What collaboration really is is not just working together, not just everyone agreeing, it is all of it and more. Collaboration is finding solutions everyone benefits from. For example, the Wright brothers collaborated to create planes, the government collaborates all the time to make laws and decisions. Collaboration is giving everyone a chance to agree or disagree, it is not ignoring others opinions or ideas. This is why collaboration is an important part of the foundations of our government and the people who live under the government's laws.

Civics, the rights and duties of citizens. Everyone has rights, like if you're 18 the right to vote. You have the right to a voice and opinion. Speaking your mind is an important part of collaboration. Having your rights makes it easier to live how you want to. At the same time, you must have duties, what you do to help your community. You may have a job that you need to commit to. Every job is needed whether you're a baker, a waitress, or a manager. It is your duty to show up and do your job.

Civility, what does that mean, some ask. Civility means to be polite and aware of others' feelings. It is important to treat others with civility because it is respectful and coming to an agreement or stating your opinion is easier. If you start yelling at someone because they are wrong then not many people will try to debate what they think because they are worried you might yell at *them*. If you politely talk about why you think you were right, people will take your opinion into deeper consideration and politely tell you their opinion. Kindly disagreeing with

someone, thanking others for help. That is why people need to have civility when communicating with others.

Our communities need civility, civics, and collaboration. So does the government. These things help us solve problems, speak openly about our opinions and all the while respectfully.

This is why these things are important.

Law

Ishaan Karuna

Our government has many problems, so many that it would be impossible to solve them all, however, there is one big problem that can't go unnoticed, that being inequality in our government. As equality is one of the "4 Cornerstones of Democracy," it is absolutely crucial to address this problem and work towards solutions.

The first type of inequality I will be addressing is occupational sex segregation. Occupational sex segregation is that women do very different jobs than men, and most "men's" jobs get paid more than "women's" jobs. For example, 80% of software engineers are men, and 20% are women, whereas 95% of preschool teachers are women, and the remaining 5% are men. The problem with this is that software engineers pay significantly more than preschool teachers. One thing we can do to help solve this problem is by expanding opportunities for women within training and apprenticeship programs. This sets targets for the number of women expected to enroll in training and apprenticeship programs and increase the use of general outreach strategies, such as advertisements in newspapers, the internet, and social media, to supplement recruiting through social networks.

The second type of inequality I am addressing is going to be racial discrimination. Racial discrimination continues to be in the labor market. An experiment carried out in Chicago and Boston during 2001 and 2002 shows that resumes with "white-sounding" names, whether male or female, were much more likely to result in success for interviews than those with "black-sounding" names (even though the resumes were identical). This sounds like a silly experiment but the results are undeniable, we need to fix racial discrimination. We can solve this by implementing racial bias training programs for companies, this helps make the workforce more diverse and lower the amount of racism shown by employees of said company. Another way we can solve this is by simply acknowledging the law, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits racial discrimination in the workplace, so if employees obey these laws and if companies uphold these laws, racism can decline.

The third type of inequality I will be discussing is incarceration. The incarceration rate in the United States has grown dramatically since the 1970s and the U.S. has one of the highest rates in the world. The rise in incarceration has been especially prominent among young Black males and high school dropouts. Although there are many factors to a person getting incarcerated, this is a problem and we need to solve it. Since nearly 40 percent of U.S. prisoners are incarcerated with little public safety rationale, replacing prison with drug treatment, probation, or community service for those convicted of lower-level crimes would be effective in lowering incarceration rates.

In this essay I have addressed 3 types of inequality in our country. I discussed solutions to occupational sex segregation, racism, and incarceration, and explained the effect of each solution. Again, inequality is a cornerstone of democracy and is crucial to fix.

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A Poem for Two Voices

By Celeste Rieder

A two voice poem is when there are two individual columns in which start the same sentence but end in their own opinions. When they speak together, that generally means they think or feel the same way. The lines they speak together are in the middle column.

In this poem in particular, one of the two voices is a part of the walkout at a Middle School in Iowa. This walkout was for teens' opinions to be expressed about the abortion laws; some people took this positively and some look it negatively. This person provides their own opinion and feeling towards the walkout. On the other hand, the other voice represents a person who had not walked out. Voice two expresses their opinions about the walkout's effects on their daily life rather than their opinions on the walkout itself. Some of the phrases, both voice one and voice two say together as they feel the same in that situation.

VOICE 1	SPOKEN TOGETHER	VOICE 2
	I AM	
frustrated and ignored		
		apathetic and tired
I wonder if people will hear me		
		I wonder what will happen to the people after the walkout
	I hear angry yelling from students who walked out of their classes	
I see a lot of students outside marching together		
		I see people getting out of their chairs to walk out and talk about their opinions
I want to be heard		
		I want to get my work done
I am frustrated and ignored		
		I am apathetic and tired
I pretend that		

		I pretend that I don't know what's going on
I feel infuriated		
		I feel confused
	I touch the tense vibes from the peers around me	
I worry if I'm going to be suspended		
		I worry about my grades
I cry about my opinions		
		I cry about my work I have to get done
I am frustrated and ignored		
		I am apathetic and tired
	I understand that students' voices should be heard equally as other peoples	
I say, "Abortion Saves Lives"		
		I say, "It's not worth it"
I dream that I'll be heard		
		I dream that we can live peacefully without the risk for harm
I try to make my voice heard by adults		
		I try to get my work done
I hope that people will understand what kind of point we are trying to make		
		I hope that nothing bad happens
I am frustrated and ignored		
		I am apathetic and tired

By Roman Willkom

The Three Cs

Civilities

Without boring civilities,
We might have less capabilities
We wouldn't miss our meetings,
when we rushed through our greetings,
But there would still be a missing part.
Yes we would save time
We'd beat the chime
But that would be all
Because our fall
Would go unnoticed by most
Due to that lack of connection
And want of affection
It might even degrade the heart.

Collaboration

When we do collaboration,
We are in the right direction
To get things done
And to have some fun
It's smoother work already
As we work as a team
And quit being mean
There'd be no need for fuss.
With energy to draw on,
Plus prior biases foregone,
That won't be worth dwelling on.
It is not quite a perfect way,
But it'd chase some gray away:
Having no foul play.

Civics

You know this country you live in?
Why, of course! You're a citizen!
You have duties and rights,
A chance to reach for the heights.
There is a time and place for fun,
And celebration for things hard won,
But keep in mind the many things
That used to only belong to kings.
Those oh so many privileges
That bring up such fond images.
The way that our government works
This Indeed has many perks
A rule for, by, and of the people,
And the right to use our church bell steeple.
Well I could go on,
But it might make you yawn.
For the great list is very drawn on.

Elizabeth Deng

11th Grade Essay

Ankeny Centennial High School

Ms. Heitz

Civics, Civility, and Collaboration: Rebuilding Trust in Our Institutions

In the present day, division and polarization seem to be everywhere. It is plastered across every social media platform and news outlet and felt within our government, communities, and everyday lives. We spend endless hours scrolling hopelessly through Twitter threads filled with hostility as cooperation and progress feel increasingly impossible. As much as the situation seems helpless, however, unity and trust in our institutions can be repaired through three crucial steps: civics, civility, and collaboration.

All efforts to depolarize the current political and social environment stem from encouraging civics and civility. Civics is the participation in government and politics by the average citizen, involving not only voting and political advocacy but also education on citizens' rights and lawmaking systems. In this sense, civic education is the fundamental root of political discussion as effective solutions cannot be generated if citizens lack understanding of their obligations and governmental systems. Both civic education and participation can be encouraged through many avenues, the most important of which is schools. Even a small elementary-school mock election can foster a culture of civic involvement starting from an early age and expand civic education. Furthermore, legal professionals can encourage proper civic education through extending their expertise to students or organizing events like Law Day, which highlight the aspects and importance of our institutions. Civility is another vital step in creating productive and constructive discussion, as it emphasizes respect and a willingness to engage with different

opinions. In this respect, we can look towards legal professionals to provide powerful models: judges practice clear, purposeful communication and impartiality, and extend nuanced understanding to all involved parties. The same skills of civility can be embodied in public engagement for political discussions in which we can seek to understand and value different experiences rather than immediately attacking them. Proper civics and civility come together in collaboration, in which accurate knowledge, political involvement, and respectful discussion create an effective environment. Through our participation and civil engagement with one another, our collaboration can embrace our differences and overcome our disagreements to achieve viable solutions.

At the same time, rebuilding trust in institutions is difficult when leaders of our institutions, and indeed our institutions themselves, are plagued by division and ineffectiveness. In such circumstances, it may feel easier to give up as the struggle seems pointless and messy. However, it is precisely because of that difficulty that we, as individual citizens, must each take responsibility in educating ourselves, giving our thoughts, taking a stand, and meeting higher standards of civility. Giving up or stepping away from our civic responsibilities has no chance of restoring or changing institutions for the better, nor does hopeless scrolling; the only path for progress is if we each take action and persevere, no matter how exhausting things might feel. Though individually our involvement may not seem like much, together, utilizing the impacts of civics, civility, and collaboration, we can generate powerful change. Only then can we begin to restore our trust in our institutions, communities, and one another.

By William Carlyon

People should always stick to their own kind. Thus is the idea put forward by secessionists, because this nation is facing a problem it has NEVER faced before... people having differing opinions. Since our country's inception we have always only been an ethnically white, conservative, communist-hating, nation that never changes and has always been perfect. And our nation is so corrupt with these white, conservative, communist-hating, ideals we may as well burn it down and make a new one since this nation has never changed before and has never been perfect.

The United States of America has always been a homogenous nation with only one kind of person: great, manly, patriotic soldiers who defend our freedoms. That's why we have always been in great harmony with each other, there wasn't ever a convention where our godly founding fathers DISAGREED with each other especially when it came to vital things in our nation such as the Constitution. I don't believe in the Federalist-Antifederalist lie told to us by big media. Our great ancestors always got along, until now where the new generation of American Patriots has to fend off waves of woke leftists trying to corrupt our nation with their ideology to preserve our nation.

The United States of America has always been a homogenous nation with only one kind of person: terrible, misogynistic, tyrants who take away our freedoms. That's why the history of the United States has always been so controversial and divisive, because throughout her history she has always had THE man pressing down his heel upon the faces of the righteous and minorities. Blacks, whites, Latinos, Gays, and Asians (Native Americans are always forgotten till they appear in the news) UNITE to face down the scourge of our forefathers. Now we are on the offensive and assaulting the curse of conservative ideology to save our nation.

By using these stereotypes to hate the other side, they hate the politicians they put in office, policies they enact, judges put on the supreme court, and a war of tit-for-tat shall break out just as it had before our "civil" brother's war and the weapon used for such warfare is the government. The government who is blamed for the travesties even if it is just a tool. Both sides need to grow up and understand that hatred and attacking each other gains nothing except animosity from the other side.



2023
LAW **65** **DAY**
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

CORNERSTONES *of* DEMOCRACY

CORNERSTONES
DEMOCRACY