News Release
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Polk County Students and Teachers Receive Polk County Bar Law Day Awards

The Polk County Bar Association (PCBA) sponsored its annual Law Day Competition again this year for students in grades 6-12 in the Polk Co. metro area. This year’s theme was “American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters.” Participating students were encouraged to explore the importance of protecting every citizen’s right to vote through visual arts, music, essay and poetry.

The winning students and teachers were honored at a special luncheon at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott Hotel on May 13, 2014. The featured speaker was Drake University Political Science Professor Dennis Goldford.

The winning teachers and students and their schools are as follows:

Essay Competition- Middle School
First Place: Shantal Hernandez Guerrero, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
Second Place: Casey Hodson, Summit Middle School, Johnston
Third Place: Ryan Holst, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
Ben Wonderlin, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines

Poetry Competition- Middle School
First Place: Harshini Abbaraju, Johnston Middle School, Johnston
Second Place: Jacob Wang, Northview Middle School, Ankeny
Third Place: Olivia Appel, Merrill Middle School, Des Moines

Visual Arts-Middle School
First Place: Ryan Sleister, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
Michael Lu, Holy Trinity School, Des Moines
Second Place: Zoey Tucker, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines
Third Place: Maya Char, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines
Jennifer Ly, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines

Music and Performing Arts-Middle School
First Place: Adam Jackson, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines
Niall Moore, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines
Second Place: Hailey Conklin, Meredith Middle School, Des Moines
Persephone Snyder, Meredith Middle School, Des Moines

Essay Competition-High School
First Place: Peter Beebe, Johnston Middle School, Johnston
Second Place: Morgan Bump, Johnston Middle School, Johnston
Third Place: Sydney Samples, Saydel High School, Saydel
Richelle Manuel, Ankeny Centennial High School, Ankeny

Poetry Competition-High School
First Place: Lavina Kalwani, Johnston Middle School, Johnston
Second Place: Andris Kirsis, Dowling Catholic High School, West Des Moines
Shivani Kumaresan, Central Academy, Des Moines

Visual Arts-High School
First Place: Integrity Narcisse, Roosevelt High School, Des Moines
First Place: Claudia Tice, Johnston Middle School, Johnston
Second Place: Jillian Gabby, Johnston Middle School, Johnston

Music and Performing Arts-High School
First Place: Addi Seybert, Johnston Middle School, Johnston
Second Place: Anna Losen, Johnston Middle School, Johnston
Emily Poss, Johnston Middle School, Johnston

Best Teacher Participation Awards
John Stratton, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
Ali Bennett, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines
Brenda Smrdel, Johnston Middle School, Johnston

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