



Law Day Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Students Honored at Law Day Luncheon”

Des Moines, IA. Friday, May 12, 2017. The [Polk County Bar Association](#) partners with [ARAG](#) each year to celebrate [Law Day](#) by giving Polk County students a chance to learn about the law through artistic expression. Students in grades K through 12 are invited to create essays, poetry, works of visual art, or performing art relating to a legal theme.

This year’s Law Day theme was [“The Fourteenth Amendment: Transforming American Democracy.”](#) The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified nearly 150 years ago, guarantees the rights of due process and equality under the law. Through this amendment, most of the protections in the Bill of Rights became enforceable against the states for the first time. It also defined citizenship and barred states from denying any citizen the privileges and immunities of citizenship. This year’s Law Day theme provided an opportunity to explore how the Fourteenth Amendment has transformed American law and society and furthered the cause of assuring liberty and justice for all.

On May 9, 2017, PCBA and ARAG presented awards to 33 students, and one teacher, at a special Awards Luncheon attended by students, teachers, family members, lawyers, and judges. The Honorable Romonda Belcher addressed the attendees as keynote speaker, highlighting the transformative effects of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The 2017 Law Day Competition Winners were:

High School Poetry:

- 1st Emma Madden—Valley High School, West Des Moines
- 2nd McKenzie Friedman—North Polk High School, Alleman
- 3rd Josiah DeValois—North Polk High School, Alleman

High School Visual Arts:

- 1st Anna Owenson—Roosevelt High School, Des Moines
- 2nd Sophia Epstein—Northview Middle School, Ankeny
- 3rd Emma Madden—Valley High School, West Des Moines

High School Essay:

- 1st Anna Senneff—Ankeny High School
- 2nd Josiah DeValois—North Polk High School, Alleman
- 3rd Sophie Bergan—Northview Middle School, Ankeny

Middle School Essay:

- 1st Elizabeth Overberg—Northview Middle School, Ankeny
- 2nd (Tie) Lawrence Deng—Northview Middle School, Ankeny
- 2nd (Tie) Bailey Vaughan—Summit Middle School, Johnston

Middle School Music and Performing Arts:

- 1st Julia Shonka and Julia Cannon—Saint Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines
- 2nd Olivia Arrowsmith—Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny

Middle School Poetry:

- 1st Xaria Campbell—Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
- 2nd Grant Miller—Northview Middle School, Ankeny
- 3rd Rosie Becicka—Saint Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines

Middle School Visual Arts:

- 1st Allison Su—Northview Middle School, Ankeny
- 2nd Esha Bolar—Summit Middle School, Johnston
- 3rd Kate Bachmann—Summit Middle School, Johnston

Elementary School Poster:

- 1st Place, 3rd Grade—Ronak Bhargava, Bergman Academy, Des Moines
- 1st Place, 4th Grade—Lukis Beroth, East Elementary School, Ankeny
- 2nd Place, 4th Grade—Josie Bishop, Westwood Elementary School, Ankeny
- 1st Place, 5th Grade—Corinna Cox, Westwood Elementary School, Ankeny
- 2nd Place, 5th Grade—Natalie Prill, Westwood Elementary School, Ankeny

Elementary School Essay:

- 1st Place, 3rd Grade—Joey Zambreno, Bergman Academy, Des Moines
- 2nd Place, 3rd Grade—Ronak Bhargava, Bergman Academy, Des Moines
- 1st Place, 4th Grade—Sophia Whitehead, Downtown School, Des Moines
- 2nd Place (Tie), 4th Grade—Rylan Malloy, Downtown School, Des Moines
- 2nd Place (Tie), 4th Grade—Josie Bishop, Westwood Elementary School, Ankeny
- 1st Place, 5th Grade—Seneca Molstre, Downtown School, Des Moines
- 2nd Place, 5th Grade—Ella Huyser, Westwood Elementary School, Ankeny

Elementary School Coloring:

- 1st Place, Kindergarten—Tessa Zambreno, Bergman Academy, Des Moines
- 1st Place, 1st Grade—Ethan Hall, Hanawalt Elementary School, Des Moines
- 1st Place, 3rd Grade—Satya Iyer, Bergman Academy, Des Moines
- 2nd Place, 3rd Grade—Sydney Goding, Bergman Academy, Des Moines

Best Teacher Participation Prize:

Ms. Tiffany White, Bergman Academy, Des Moines

About Law Day

Law Day is an annual commemoration first held in 1957 when American Bar Association President Charles Rhynes envisioned a special national day to mark our nation's commitment to the rule of law. The following year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first Law Day Proclamation. Law Day was made official in 1961 when Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

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, who are judges, private practitioners, government workers, and corporate legal counsel. We also provide public service to the community in the following ways:

1. **Speakers' Bureau.** The Speakers' Bureau provides local attorneys and judges to speak for civic organizations, schools, and community groups on a variety of legal topics.
2. **[Volunteer Lawyers Project \(VLP\)](#).** Polk County lawyers annually donate more than 5,000 hours of their time to ensure that every client with legal needs can access the justice system. The VLP is the primary conduit for thousands of pro-bono clients in Polk County.
3. **[Mediation Program](#).** PCBA administers the Mediation Program for the Fifth Judicial District of Iowa. The Program maintains a roster of trained mediators who help parties resolve their legal matters (domestic relations matters, small claims, real estate, and other civil disputes) through negotiation. This allows people to reach a settlement by mutual agreement and often provides for a quicker resolution than litigation.
4. **[Proteus HOLA Program](#).** PCBA partners with several local agencies to provide outreach, support, and advice to Polk County's Hispanic and immigrant communities. Clinics are held monthly to provide free legal advice and guidance for those in need.

About ARAG

ARAG is a leader in legal insurance. Legal plans protect consumers and their families against life's legal issues—through a nationwide network of attorneys and access to legal resources. From routine concerns like writing a will to significant issues like protecting yourself against a lawsuit, ARAG can help. Learn more about our legal plans for individuals, employers and other affiliate groups.

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