



## Law Day 2023 Grades 6-8 Essay Contest “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility and Collaboration”

The Erie County Bar Association invites all Erie County students in Grades 6-8 to participate in its Law Day Essay Contest. Established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, Law Day honors the rule of law. Law Day, which is held annually, provides an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protects our liberty, strives to achieve justice, and contributes to the freedoms that all Americans share. The Erie County Bar Association will celebrate Law Day on May 9, 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.

All entries should reflect the student’s interpretation of the Law Day theme by responding to the following prompt:

### “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility and Collaboration”

**Eligibility:** This contest is open to Erie County students in Grades 6-8.

**Criteria:** Entries must be 500 words and typed double-spaced in a 12-point font. Essays must be submitted with an entry form. **Do not include your name on the essay.** Entries will be judged on accuracy of information, clarity of expression, content, and originality. The title, any citations, and footnotes will be excluded from the word count. If mailing, do not staple the essay, instead, please use a paper clip.

**Deadline:** Email to [jskresge@eriebar.com](mailto:jskresge@eriebar.com) or mail essay with entry form **by Friday, April 14, 2023**, to Julie Kresge, Erie County Bar Association, 429 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507. Mailed entries must be postmarked by April 14, 2023, or they will be disqualified.

**Prizes:** One winner from each grade will be selected. The prize is \$75 and a Law Day certificate. They will also be announced during the Law Day program, May 9, 2023. The winning essays will be published on the Erie County Bar Association’s website at [www.eriebar.com](http://www.eriebar.com) and on its Facebook page (without names).

**Other:** Contact Julie Kresge, ECBA Executive Director, at [jskresge@eriebar.com](mailto:jskresge@eriebar.com) with questions.

***Entries will not be returned.***



## Law Day 2023 Grades 6-8 Essay Contest – Entry Form “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility and Collaboration”

*Please type or print legibly.*

Student’s Name & Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Telephone/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name & Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm I am a student and that my entry is the result of my own work.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student’s Signature*

I affirm the attached essay is solely the work of the student named above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Teacher’s Signature*

I hereby grant my child permission to participate in the 2023 Law Day contest.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent’s Name (Print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent’s Signature*

Students give the Erie County Bar Association the right to reproduce contest entries without time, use, or any other limitation as long as it is for non-commercial purposes. Entries must be submitted by email to [jskresge@eriebar.com](mailto:jskresge@eriebar.com) by 5:00 p.m. on April 14, 2023 or postmarked by April 14, 2023. Late entries will not be accepted. Winners will be notified on or about May 1, 2023. Please refer to the contest guidelines for details on how to properly submit your entry. Contact Julie Kresge, ECBA Executive Director, at [jskresge@eriebar.com](mailto:jskresge@eriebar.com) with questions.