



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY – ESSEX VICINAGE

2022 LAW DAY

COURT SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

NOTICE: Registration is required to participate. Students registering individually must obtain parent or guardian permission. Submissions must be based on the 2022 Law Day theme and comply with the applicable contest rules and deadlines.

Theme: Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change

“The 2022 Law Day theme is “Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change”
“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union...” are the opening words of the U.S. Constitution. At 4,400 words and signed in 1787, it is one of the shortest and oldest written constitutions in the world.

The Constitution is a dynamic document, as it not only outlines a blueprint for government, but also delegates power, articulates rights, and offers mechanisms for change. It is neither perfect, nor exhaustive, as our nation’s history makes clear. Legislation, court rulings, amendments, lawyers, and “we the people” have built upon those original words across generations to attempt to make the “more perfect Union” more real. That effort continues today, as contemporary leaders and everyday citizens raise their voices as loud as ever to fulfill the promise of the Constitution. Defining and refining those words of the Constitution might be our oldest national tradition, and how each of us works—together—toward a more perfect Union.”

The above information was retrieved from the American Bar Association website [Law Day \(americanbar.org\)](http://www.americanbar.org) on 8/25/2021.

Art Contest: This contest is open to Essex County students **in grades K-12**. Submissions may include artistic renditions that relate to the Law Day theme. This includes mixed media of magazine, newspaper, fabric, paint, marker, pencil or computer-generated images and sculpted art. Contest rules and registration forms are available online. Submissions will be accepted between March 15 to March 31, 2022. For additional information, please visit the [Art Contest Rules](#) page.

Writing Contest: This contest is open to Essex County **middle and high school** students. Submissions may be in the form of an essay or poem. Contest rules and registration forms are available online. Writing submissions should be formatted as a MS Word document or copy and pasted in the body of an email, then emailed to EssexLawDay.mbox@njcourts.gov between March 15 to March 31, 2022. For additional information, please visit the [Writing Contest Rules](#) page.

Video Contest: This contest is open to Essex County students **in grades K-12**. Contest rules and registration forms are available online. Video submissions must be submitted with written lyrics, script or description in a Word document or in the body of an email along with the recording of the performance and emailed to EssexLawDay.mbox@njcourts.gov between March 15 to March 31, 2022 (5 minutes maximum for each entry). For additional information, please visit the [Video Contest Rules](#) page.

Mock Trial Program / Guest Judge Speaker: **Mock Trial Program** is open to all Essex County students **in grades 3 through 12**. Students stage a mock trial to resolve a hypothetical dispute outlined in a court prepared fact pattern. This activity develops students’ analytical abilities and self-confidence while furthering an understanding of the content, processes, and roles of courtroom staff as well as the legal system. Mock trials also demonstrate the significance of our constitutional protections and promotes trust in the courts. The Law Day Committee, in partnership with the Office of the Ombudsman and the Essex County Bar Association (ECBA), coordinate the mock trials. Judges and members of the ECBA will visit participating schools/groups to assist, mentor and participate in the mock trials. Interested schools and groups must register to participate. [Mock trial date to be determined \(April or May 2022\)](#). To ensure that presenters and attendees have sufficient time to interact with each other, it is recommended that schools/groups allot at least two class periods or 40 minutes to 1 ½ hours to conduct mock trials. **Please note this is not a competition. It is a learning exercise in which the students need to be prepared in advance to participate. Please refer to the Mock Trial Guide for additional information (see link below).**

The mock trial fact patterns will be available online at <http://www.njcourts.gov/courts/vicinages/essex/lawday.html>.

Guest Judge Speaker is an alternative program offered to those schools who do not wish to conduct a mock trial and prefer to have a judge present to the students about a desired topic or discuss the role of the judge and the courts. Presentations will be hosted virtually via the schools preferred virtual platform. [Date to be determined \(April or May 2022\)](#).

Registration: **To participate in any of the 2022 Law Day activities, please visit the Essex Vicinage Law Day website at <http://www.njcourts.gov/courts/vicinages/essex/lawday.html> for contest rules and registration forms.** Questions or concerns may be emailed to the Essex Vicinage Office of the Ombudsman at EssexLawDay.mbox@njcourts.gov.