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**LISA P. THORNTON**  
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Rebekah Heilman  
Ombudsman

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March 4, 2022

Re: 2022 Law Day Student Art, Poetry and Essay Contest

Dear Teachers and Students,

In recognition of Law Day 2022, the Superior Court of New Jersey, Monmouth Vicinage invites your students to participate in our annual Law Day Art, Poetry and Essay contest. The contest allows students to demonstrate their creativity and talents while taking part in a celebration of our nation's laws.

The American Bar Association has selected "Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change" as this year's Law Day theme. In selecting this year's theme, the ABA has explained:

*"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. It 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.*

[www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/law-day/](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/)

Please circulate these posters and encourage students to participate. Student essays, poetry and artwork will be judged on originality, clarity and organization, and representation of the theme. If this is a class project, assigned to all students, please pick 10 entries for submission. If this is not assigned as a class project, flyers can be given to individual students to take home and students/parents can submit their entries independently. All contest entries must be emailed to: [MonLawDay.Mailbox@njcourts.gov](mailto:MonLawDay.Mailbox@njcourts.gov). Entries should be submitted no later than April 22, 2022. All entries must be submitted electronically – no mailed entries will be accepted.

Please feel free to contact me at (732) 358-8700 x87251 if you have any questions regarding the contest.

Monmouth Vicinage looks forward to partnering with your school to encourage student participation in this rewarding learning experience.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Heilman, Ombudsman