

Law Day 2016

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY – ESSEX VICINAGE

MIRANDA

more than words

LAW DAY 2016

WRITING CONTEST RULES

Instructions: Thank you for your interest in the Law Day 2016 Writing Contest! Please register online at www.njcourts.com/essex/lawday.

Theme: Miranda: More than Words

“In 2016, the nation marks the 50th anniversary of perhaps the nation’s best-known U.S. Supreme Court case, *Miranda v. Arizona*. The Miranda Warning has become ingrained in law enforcement and has permeated popular consciousness through countless recitations in films and television shows. Yet Miranda is only part of the story when it comes to the procedures for ensuring justice. The 2016 Law Day theme — **Miranda: More than Words** — will explore the procedural protections afforded to all of us by the U.S. Constitution, how these rights are safeguarded by the courts, and why the preservation of these principles is essential to our liberty.”

2016 American Bar Association Law Day website

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/lawday2016.html

Resources:

- [Lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org) (American Bar Association’s Law Day web site) – for in depth information about the Law Day 2016 theme.
- <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/facts-and-case-summary-miranda-v-arizona> for information regarding *Miranda v. Arizona*.
- <http://americanhistory.about.com/od/supremecourtcases/pl/> provides a simple overview on *Miranda v. Arizona*

Content: The writing contest is open to **middle and high school students**. Students may submit essays or poems that incorporate the Law Day 2016 theme and discuss issues pertaining to the theme and the court in students’ own words. Suggested content should incorporate thoughtful consideration of the following:

- 1) What is the purpose of amendments? What would happen if there were no amendments? What would happen if individual rights were not protected?
- 2) Discuss the benefits that the *Miranda v. Arizona* decision provides to individuals and society, and what society might look like without it.

Length: An essay of 250 to 300 words or a poem of 4 to 6 stanzas.

Judging: **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE TYPED** and formatted in MS Word (*Times New Roman or Arial fonts*). Essay and poems will be judged on content and presentation. Teachers should review entries for spelling and grammatical errors prior to submission. Paraphrases and/or quotes must contain references.

Identification: Each entry must include the following information in the front upper left hand corner:

- (1) Title of work (if applicable)
- (2) Student's name
- (3) Student's grade and age
- (4) School name
- (5) Teacher's name

Deadline: Submissions accepted between **March 1, 2016 – March 15, 2016**

Disclaimer: All entries become the property of the Superior Court of New Jersey - Essex Vicinage. Students are encouraged to keep copies of their entries. Excerpts from submissions may be displayed in Judiciary publications and/or website. Entries will not be used for commercial purposes.

Submissions:

- **Email is the preferred submission method for writing contest entries.** Entries must be attached to email as a document in **MS Word** format and sent to:

EssexLawDay.Mbx@judiciary.state.nj.us

- **Mail or personally deliver* to:**

Superior Court of New Jersey - Essex Vicinage
Office of the Ombudsman /
Information & Community Relations Center
50 West Market Street - Room 132
Newark, NJ 07102

- **A confirmation email will be sent to the contact person(s) for the school when entries are received. If you do not receive an email confirmation or if you have any questions please call (973) 776-9300 ext. 56886**

**** Bulk submissions should include a copy of the registration form.***