



## SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY – ESSEX VICINAGE

# 2026 LAW DAY

## COURT SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

**NOTICE:** Registration is required to participate. Submissions must be based on the 2026 Law Day theme and comply with the applicable contest rules and deadlines.

The Rule of Law and the American Dream

**Theme:** “The rule of law—the idea that no person is above the law—is what ensures the rights of the people to live their lives as freely as possible and to pursue their dreams. The ABA encourages all Americans to recognize Law Day on May 1, 2026, and to reflect on how the rule of law ensures all Americans have the ability to fulfill their dreams.”

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

**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 2 to March 13, 2026.** 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.Mbx@njcourts.gov](mailto:EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov) between **March 2 to March 13, 2026**. 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.Mbx@njcourts.gov](mailto:EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov) between **March 2 to March 13, 2026** (5 minutes maximum for each entry). For additional information, please visit the [Video Contest Rules](#) page.

**Mock Trial Program:**

**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.

***All mock trials will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026.*** 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 our Mock Trial Guide for additional information.** The guide and mock trial fact patterns will be available online at <https://www.njcourts.gov/essex-law-day>.

**Classroom Conversations:**

**Classroom Conversations** is an alternative program offered to those schools who do not wish to conduct a mock trial and prefer to have a judge meet with the students and discuss a requested topic or the role of the judge and the courts.

**Presentations will be hosted virtually via the schools preferred virtual platform.** Registered schools will be contacted in April 2026 to arrange a date and time. *The date will be coordinated based on judge's availability in April or May 2026.*

**Registration:**

**To participate in any of the 2026 Law Day activities, please visit the Essex Vicinage Law Day website to view contest rules and register online at <https://www.njcourts.gov/essex-law-day>.**

Email any inquiries to Essex Vicinage Office of the Ombudsman at [EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov](mailto:EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov).