



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY – ESSEX VICINAGE

2026 LAW DAY

ART CONTEST RULES

Instructions: Thank you for your interest in the 2026 Law Day Art Contest. Please register online at <https://www.njcourts.gov/essex-law-day>.

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).

Resources: Teachers, coordinators, or students may visit the following websites to obtain additional information regarding the 2026 Law Day theme. These resources and instructional guidance will encourage students to explore the connection between the Rule of Law and the American Dream, deepen their understanding of justice and equality, and inspire creative expression that reflects how laws protect opportunity, fairness, and freedom for all.

- ABA 2026 Law Day Guide at [Law Day \(americanbar.org\)](http://www.americanbar.org)
- bensguide.gpo.gov
- <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org>
- <https://www.icivics.org>
- [Law Day and Rule of Law Resources](#)
- [How the Rule of Law Makes Democracy Work - Lesson plan | Facing History & Ourselves](#)
- [American Lawyers Alliance](#)

Content:	<p>The Art Contest is open to all Essex County students. Submissions should incorporate the 2026 Law Day theme and depict images pertaining to the theme as it relates to the court through the students' artistic expression. Submissions should be the students' original work. Artwork should refrain from using threatening, offensive, or abusive imagery. Listed below is some suggested content to get the students started. Submissions <u>are not</u> limited to the suggestions below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Illustrate or depict a moment when the rule of law helped advance the American Dream — for example, a historic court decision, civil rights protest, or legislative change that enabled more people to pursue their dreams under fair laws. 2) Highlight youth, families, or communities that are supported by just laws and are working to build a future — connecting the idea of “dream” with “law” and “justice”. 3) Create a poster or ad that expresses how fair laws and rights safeguard the ability for all citizens to pursue their dreams. Show how the rule of law is a foundation for the American Dream.
Format:	<p>Acceptable forms of submissions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Poster (any size) 2) Sculpture (any size) <p>Art Contest submissions may include mixed media such as magazine, newspaper, fabric, paint, marker, pencil or computer-generated images.</p>
Judging:	<p>Submissions will be judged on the incorporation of the 2026 Law Day theme, overall presentation, and originality. First place, second place, third place and honorable mention(s) may be selected. Winners will be acknowledged at an awards ceremony on May 1, 2026. Any submission found to not be the student's original work may be disqualified.</p>
Identification:	<p>Include the following information for each submission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Title of artwork (if applicable) (2) Student's name and mailing address (3) Student's grade and age (4) School or group name (5) Teacher or group coordinator name (if applicable) (6) Parent or guardian name, telephone number and email address.
Deadline:	<p>Submissions will be accepted between March 2 to March 13, 2026.</p>
Disclaimer:	<p>All entries become the property of the Superior Court of New Jersey - Essex Vicinage. Students that submit a photo of their entry are encouraged to keep original entries until the contest has concluded. Images from selected submissions may be displayed in Judiciary publications and/or website. Entries will not be used for commercial purposes.</p>

Submissions: **ELECTRONICALLY** - Take a clear photo of the artwork in a well-lit area, add the information from the “Identification” section above to the body of the email and submit electronically to EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov.

MAIL TO:

Superior Court of NJ – Essex
Veterans Courthouse
50 West Market Street, Room 132,
Newark NJ 067102
Attn: Ombudsman’s Office -Law Day Contest

DROP-OFF – During office hours Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the address listed above, between **March 2 to March 13, 2026**

Questions or concerns:

Contact the Essex Vicinage Ombudsman’s Office

Email: EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov

Telephone: (973) 776-9300 ext. 56886