



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY – ESSEX VICINAGE

2026 LAW DAY

VIDEO CONTEST RULES

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

Theme: The Rule of Law and the American Dream

“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://LawDay.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 through that reflects how laws protect opportunity, fairness, and freedom for all.

- ABA 2026 Law Day Guide at [Law Day \(americanbar.org\)](http://LawDay.americanbar.org)
- bensguide.gpo.gov
- <http://www.pbslearningmedia.org>
- <http://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: The Video Contest is open to **all grade levels**. Submissions should incorporate the 2026 Law Day theme and contain language pertaining to the theme and the court through the students’ artistic expression. Acceptable forms of submissions include a song, rap, skit or dance. Submissions should be of the students’ original work. Paraphrases, quotes and AI resources must contain references or proper citation.

Plagiarism is defined as using someone else's work without giving them proper credit. Submissions that are identified as such will immediately be disqualified.

Format:

- Submissions may be up to 5 minutes maximum.
- **ALL ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE TYPED LYRICS, SCRIPT AND/OR DESCRIPTION** along with a recording of the performance.

Judging:

Submissions will be judged on content, presentation and originality.

1. Lyrics/scripts that include suggestive remarks, profanity, vulgar or offensive language or imagery will be disqualified.
2. Submissions from partnerships and teams as well as individuals are allowed. However, *all* participants must be identified.
3. One submission per student, partnership or team.

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.

Identification:

Include the following information for each submission:

- (1) Title (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:

Submissions will be accepted **between March 2 to March 13, 2026.**

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:

ELECTRONICALLY

Email to EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov. Remember to include the information from the "Identification" section above in the video and or the body of the email submission. Acceptable formats include a video link such as YouTube, compressed video file or other video file not more than 25MB.

MAIL TO:

Superior Court of NJ – Essex

Veterans Courthouse

50 West Market Street, Room 132

Newark NJ 07102

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