



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY – ESSEX VICINAGE

2026 LAW DAY

THE RULE OF LAW AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACT PATTERN SYNOPSIS ***AVERY JOHNSON V. WESTBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL***

Avery Johnson is a student at Westbrook Elementary School. Avery enjoys being creative and likes drawing, acting, and helping with school events. Teachers and classmates know Avery as someone who works hard and enjoys sharing ideas.

In the spring, Westbrook Elementary planned a school-wide Talent Show. To help advertise the event, the school announced a poster design contest. Students were invited to create posters that included the date, time, and location of the Talent Show. The rules explained that the winning poster would be displayed around the school, and the winner would receive a \$50 gift card.

Avery decided to enter the contest and carefully followed all the posted rules. Avery designed a colorful poster that included all the required information and turned it in on time.

After reviewing the entries, the school announced that Avery's poster was the winner. The poster was printed, hung around the school, and used to promote the Talent Show. Many students and families attended the event.

After the Talent Show, Avery asked about receiving the promised gift card. The school then said Avery would not receive the prize. A teacher explained that although Avery's poster won the contest, it had not been approved by a school committee before being printed and displayed. The teacher said this approval was required, even though it was not listed in the contest rules.

Avery disagreed with this decision. Avery explained that all the written contest rules were followed, that no approval requirement was mentioned, and that the poster was already chosen as the winner and used by the school.

The school argues that the approval requirement is an important rule and that prizes should not be given if all steps were not followed.

The case is now before a judge.

The judge must decide whether Avery should receive the promised prize after winning the contest and following the rules that were shared.

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