

# MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS



## About the Contest

Law Day is held in May every year to celebrate the role of law in our society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession. This year's essay contest sponsored by the Manatee County Bar Association (MCBA) provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about our legal system and our system of justice, and to get creative and win prizes. The contest can be incorporated into a curriculum, offered as extra credit, or submitted directly by students. Students are invited to submit essays to be entered in the MCBA's Law Day Essay Contest. Only one submission allowed per student.

**2018 Law Day Theme:** The American Bar Association recently announced the theme for Law Day 2018, which is "**Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom.**"

The U.S. Constitution sets out a system of government with distinct and independent branches—Congress, the Presidency, and a Supreme Court. It also defines legislative, executive, and judicial powers and outlines how they interact. These three separate branches share power, and each branch serves as a check on the power of the others. Separation of powers is fundamental to our constitutional purpose and to how our governmental system is working for ourselves and our posterity.

Learn more about the theme at:

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/initiatives\\_awards/law-day.html](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/law-day.html)

**Length of Submissions:** Submissions should be no less than 500 words and no more than 1000 words.

**Deadline:** Essays may be submitted no earlier than January 1, 2018 and must be post marked no later than February 16, 2018. To submit an essay for consideration, please mail the essay *with the attached, signed entry form* to **MCBA Essay Contest c/o Jennifer Fowler-Hermes, Esq., 200 South Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236.**

**Eligibility:** The Law Day Essay Contest is open to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students attending public or private schools in Manatee County, Florida, or being home schooled in Manatee County. All qualified participants must have their parent or guardian sign the Entry Form and Parent/Guardian Permission Release Form, and each Entry Form must be signed by an adult.

**Blind Judging:** The Contest will be judged without knowledge of the student's identity. Judging will be based on originality and interpretation of the Law Day theme.

**Recognition and Awards:** The winner and the first and second runners-up will receive prizes and recognition by the MCBA. Further, the winner and the runners-up, and a parent/teacher of their choice, will be invited to attend the MCBA's Law Day Luncheon in May 2018, where they will be announced as the winners.

The winning essay will be published in the MCBA's newsletter the *Inter Alia*.

# Manatee County Bar Association's 2018 Law Day Essay Contest Entry Form and Parent/Guardian Permission and Release

Please attach this form to your essay entry. Please ensure student's name is also on the essay in case entry form is separated. Names on the essay will be redacted for judging.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN: PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION AND RELEASE AT THE END OF THIS FORM.**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: February 16, 2018 - Mail entries to:**

**MCBA Essay Contest c/o Jennifer Fowler-Hermes, Esq.  
200 South Orange Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34236**

## Parent/Guardian Permission and Release:

I hereby consent to submission of the attached essay to the MCBA 7<sup>th</sup> Grade essay contest, as the parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name); and give my permission for the submission and the student's photograph to be printed in the Manatee County Bar Association newsletter if chosen, and for the student to be named and recognized by the Manatee County Bar Association at its 2018 Law Day Luncheon.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_