

**WORCESTER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
2019 LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST
FOR EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS IN WORCESTER COUNTY**



Can “Fake News” undermine our democratic way of life?

Can "Fake News" undermine our democratic way of life? Social media has become the conduit for quick and easy dissemination of misleading, inaccurate and potentially harmful information which is labeled as news. Misinformation can be used to isolate and polarize individuals or groups of people. Should "Fake News" be challenged? Can "Fake News" undermine our democratic way of life? Can we challenge "Fake News" without encroaching on free speech?

Law Day is an opportunity for all Americans to celebrate the freedoms that we enjoy, as guaranteed to us by the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights and the United States Constitution. The Worcester County Bar Association is proud to sponsor an essay contest which gives our young citizens the opportunity to express what these freedoms and liberties mean to them.

Guidelines: Essays should be 500 - 1000 words in length and neatly handwritten or typed on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper. Please **do not staple the pages or put them into a three-hole punch folder. Please do not use paper torn out of a notebook that has jagged edges.** Please write or type on only one side of the paper. The student's name, school, and the name of the student's teacher must be on the essay. The contest is for students currently in the 8th grade in a Worcester County school. Only original work product of the students will be accepted. These guidelines must be followed for an essay to be accepted for the contest.

Teachers please submit essays on behalf of your students by mailing them or delivering them to Law Day Essay Contest, c/o Worcester County Bar Association, 370 Main Street, Suite 975, Worcester, Massachusetts 01608. Essays must be hand delivered or postmarked no later than **March 1, 2019** to be included in the contest. Individual eighth grade students are also welcome to submit essays to the address noted above but must include a mailing address and email address at the top of the essay with a notation that it an individual submission.

The essays will be read by a panel of attorneys and judges. The decision of the contest panel is final.

The winner, along with his or her parents/guardians and teacher, will be the honored guests of the Worcester County Bar Association at our Annual Law Day Breakfast, scheduled for May 1, 2019, at 7:30 a.m. at the Beechwood Inn in Worcester. The winner will be presented with a plaque recognizing his or her commitment as a young citizen and a cash award of \$100.00.

If you have any questions regarding this contest, please contact Sandra M. DiLuzio, Executive Director of the Worcester County Bar Association at 508-752-1311 or diluzio@worcestercountybar.org.