



NEWS ADVISORY

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge**

**Contact:
Al Baker, Communications Director
Arlene Hackel
(212) 428-2500
publicinformation@nycourts.gov**

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Law Day 2026 Art Contest Invites High School Students to Showcase Creativity and Civic Pride

NEW YORK—Law Day is commemorated annually on May 1 to highlight the rule of law and the freedoms Americans hold dear. In celebration of Law Day 2026, the Unified Court System's Office for Justice Initiatives—Division of Access to Justice has partnered with the Historical Society of the New York Courts to invite high school students statewide to participate in an art contest inspired by the American Bar Association's theme: *"The Rule of Law and the American Dream."*

"I am thrilled to announce the fifth year of our Law Day Art Contest. This year's theme highlights one of the most consequential principles of our legal history," said Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina G. Richardson. "The rule of law – the idea that no person is above the law – ensures the rights of people to live their lives as freely as possible to pursue their dreams. This principle is embedded in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution. The Office for Justice Initiatives and the New York State Unified Court System, under the leadership of Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas, continue to be unwavering in their support of civic and community engagement initiatives, especially programs targeted to our young people. We are appreciative of the Historical Society of the New York Courts for its ongoing commitment and support of this initiative. We continue to be amazed by the creative work inspired by the Law Day themes and encourage budding artists of high school age statewide to participate in this year's art contest."

"The Historical Society of the New York Courts is pleased to join the Office for Justice Initiatives and continue to co-sponsor this Law Day Art Contest," said Allison Morey, Executive Director of the Historical Society of the New York Courts. "We at the Society are committed to empowering New York's students to understand the law, the role of the courts in our democracy, and their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the State. The American dream is a touchstone of hope, and while these dreams may be unique for every individual, they are all united under the Constitution. It is the rule of law that protects our freedoms and ensures our dreams can be fulfilled. This theme presents many opportunities for interpretation, and we look forward to engaging with the students' artistic visions through this contest."

Submissions should be original artwork depicting what the Law Day 2026 theme means to the artist. All entries must be received by **March 20, 2026**, and winners will be announced on **May 1, 2026**. Entries will first be judged within each judicial district. First-place winners will advance to the statewide round, where first, second, and third-place winners will receive **cash prizes** courtesy of the Historical Society of the New York Courts and have their artwork featured on the court system's website.

For contest rules and registration, visit:

https://ww2.nycourts.gov/ip/nya2j/Courts_Community_Center/lawday.shtml or see the attached flyer.

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