



2026 Law Day Essay Competition

Eligibility

All Students in San Benito County who are in grades 9-12, attending public or private school, or are home schooled, and Gavilan College Students may enter the essay or art contest.

The Superior Court of California, County of San Benito cordially invites students to help us celebrate Law Day 2026 by entering this year's The Constitution's Promise competition:

The Rule of Law and the American Dream

Prompt

The 2026 Law Day theme focuses on the rule of law, the idea that no one is above the law, and how this principle protects the rights and freedoms that make it possible for people to chase their version of the American Dream.

In your essay, explain how you interpret this theme by discussing how laws, rights, responsibilities, and justice shape the opportunities available in a democratic society. You may consider historical examples, current events, or personal observations to support your interpretation.

Rules

1. Essays must be a maximum of 500 words, typed or handwritten in blue or black ink.
2. Essays must be original, and the exclusive work of the student entering the competition.
3. Essays may not include copyrighted characters, photographs, magazines, or newspaper illustrations.
4. Submissions will not be accepted or eligible if they include any content that contains or appears to contain:
 - o Profane, obscene, or inappropriate images or language
 - o Any derogatory characterization of any person or group based on age, race, color, gender, gender identity, citizenship, national origin, physical appearance, political affiliation, union membership, etc.
 - o Any actual or apparent copying or other infringement of another's intellectual property or the use of AI (artificial intelligence).
5. All submissions must include the provided cover sheet, whether physical or digital.
6. Submissions can be entered by any of the following:
 - a. Physical drop off at the court.
 - b. Mailed to the court-
Resource Team RE: Law Day
450 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023
 - c. Emailed to: resourceteam@sanbenitocourt.org