



Law Day 2020 Essay Contest

Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100

The Maine State Bar Association invites all Maine students in grades 9-12 to participate in its Law Day essay contest. Established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, Law Day honors the rule of law. Law Day, which is held annually on May 1, provides an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice, and contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share.

Law Day Theme: In 2020, the United States is commemorating the centennial of the transformative constitutional amendment that guaranteed the right of citizens to vote would not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.

American women fought for, and won, the right to vote through their voice and action. The women's suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform. Yet, honest reflection on the suffrage movement reveals complexity and tensions over race and class that remain part of the ongoing story of the 19th Amendment and its legacies.

All entries should reflect the student's interpretation of the 2020 Law Day theme by responding to the following prompt:

What impact has the 19th Amendment had on our society, culture, and democracy?

- Eligibility:** This contest is open to Maine students in grades 9-12.
- Criteria:** Entries must be 750-1000 words and typed in a 12-point font. Essays must be submitted with an entry form. **Do not include your name on the essay.** Entries will be judged on accuracy of information, clarity of expression, content, and originality.
- Deadline:** Email or mail essays with entry form by April 15, 2020, to **Kathryn Holub, Maine State Bar Association, 124 State St., Augusta, ME, 04330** or **kholub@mainebar.org**. Mailed entries must be **postmarked by April 15, 2020**, or they will be disqualified.
- Prizes:** Two winners will be selected. First prize is \$75 and second prize is \$50. The winning students' teachers will also win \$75 and \$50, respectively. The winning essays will be published in the *Maine Bar Journal* and at www.mainebar.org.
- Materials:** More information about Law Day and this contest can be found at www.mainebar.org under **For the Public > Law Day 2020**.

Contact MSBA Communications Director Kathryn Holub at kholub@mainebar.org with questions.