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March 5, 2026

**RE: Omaha area Law Day 2026 Essay Contest**

Dear Eighth Grade Teachers and School Administrators:

The Omaha Bar Association is excited to once again conduct an Essay Contest for Omaha area eighth grade students in coordination with Law Day on May 1, 2026. **We are asking for your assistance in presenting this essay contest as a class project.** This year's essay topic is on the theme of Law Day 2026 nationwide, "The Rule of Law and the American Dream." For detailed information and teacher resources, please visit [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org). To see past Omaha Law Day celebrations, please visit [www.omahabarassociation.com/page/LawDay2026](http://www.omahabarassociation.com/page/LawDay2026).

The essays should be 200-250 typewritten words. **Entries must be received no later than April 10, 2026**, submitted via email to the email address listed below. The entries will be judged on originality, content, neatness, and spelling. Please make sure each entry has the student, teacher, and school's name included. Submissions using A.I. assistance are not permitted.

Three winning essays will be chosen. The first prize winner will receive \$175, the second prize winner will receive \$150, and the third prize winner will receive \$125. The teacher of a winning essay will be given a \$50 Visa gift card (limit one per teacher). The first-place winning essay will be published in the Law Day Edition of *The Daily Record*, on the Omaha Bar Association website, and we will invite the winners, their teachers, and a parent of each winner to the Omaha Bar Association's Law Day Luncheon on Friday, May 1, 2026 at 11:45AM at Field Club of Omaha. Awards will be presented to the three winners at the Law Day Luncheon.

We look forward to receiving your school's entries for the contest. If you have any additional questions regarding the Law Day Essay Contest, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dave Sommers  
Executive Director  
Omaha Bar Association  
[dave@omahabarassociation.com](mailto:dave@omahabarassociation.com)  
C: 402-318-2299

# Law Day 2026 - 8th Grade Essay Contest

**LAW DAY** is held every year to celebrate the role of law in our society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession. The purpose of Law Day is to bring awareness and appreciation of our country's legal system to the local communities and, in particular, to the students. This year, the Omaha Bar Association is again sponsoring an Essay Contest as part of their annual Law Day activities. The Essay Contest is open to students in Eighth Grade in the Omaha metro area.

**American Bar Association information about the 2026 Law Day Theme “The Rule of Law and the American Dream”:** The 2026 Law Day theme is a recognition that the Rule of Law protects the rights necessary for each person to pursue their own happiness – their own vision of “the American Dream” – the belief that hard work can produce a better life. Essays on this topic can range in specific focus, including but not limited to:

- The Rule of Law and the American Dream’s enduring strength and vitality are enhanced by public education and understanding about our rights and responsibilities;
- Individual and national prosperity is both dependent upon and critical to political liberty and social equality;
- The Rule of Law ensures that no single person or the government is above the law, and that all persons, regardless of their status, must be treated equally under the law, and that no one will be denied liberty or property without due process; and
- Why the system of laws we have is important for your American Dream and the Dreams of your family and friends.

**More details on Law Day can be found at**

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

## **ESSAY CONTEST RULES**

- Omaha and surrounding area schools - Grade 8 students only.
- All Essays should be between 200 and 250 words. Essays over 350 words will not be considered for prizes. Essays using A.I. assistance/ChatGPT will not be judged.
- Entries shall be submitted electronically via email to [dave@omahabarassociation.com](mailto:dave@omahabarassociation.com).
- Essays will be judged on connection to the 2026 Law Day theme, originality, content, spelling, and neatness.
- Include the student’s name, school and Social Studies/Government teacher.
- Deadline to submit an entry is April 10, 2026.
- Potential (but not exclusive) Essay Topics within the theme:
  - What does the “American Dream” mean to you, and why are having laws important to pursuing that dream?
  - What does the “Rule of Law” mean to you and why is it important?

## **PRIZES:**

First Prize: \$175 / Second Prize: \$150 / Third Prize: \$125

Teacher Thank You Gift: \$50 Visa gift card

**NOTE:** By submitting an essay to this contest, you are agreeing to allow the Omaha Bar Association and The Daily Record to possibly publish your essay online or in print. Please contact Dave Sommers at [dave@omahabarassociation.com](mailto:dave@omahabarassociation.com) or 402-318-2299 with questions.