

# The Houston Bar Association's Annual

## Law Day Essay Contest

**Deadline for contest entry: Friday, March 5, 2010**

*The Law Day Celebration is 52 years old.*

*LAW DAY is celebrated across the country each year on May 1st. Its purpose is to reserve a "special day of celebration by the American people in appreciation of their liberties and to provide an occasion for rededication to the ideas of equality and justice under law."*

In recognition of Law Day, the Houston Bar Association is sponsoring an Essay Contest. We hope that the contest will allow students to recognize the importance of law in our society. The theme for this year is "**Law in the 21st Century: Emerging Challenges and Enduring Traditions.**" Entries should depict how traditions of the law are being challenged by changes of the 21st century in our world.

### **Grade Levels**

9 - 12th grades may participate

### **All entries should be labeled with:**

- 1) The student's name, address, phone number, and grade level;
- 2) The school's name, phone number and school district;
- 3) The principal and teacher's names.

All essays should be no longer than three 8 1/2" x 11" double-spaced pages, typewritten preferred. All entries become the property of the Houston Bar Association. Judges provided courtesy of the Houston Bar Association's Law Week Committee.

### **Prizes:**

First Place Winner - \$500.00  
2 Second Place Winners - \$200.00 each  
2 Third Place Winners - \$100.00 each  
Teacher of First Place Winner - \$200.00  
*Courtesy of The Pratz Simmons Group at Smith Barney.*

In addition, each first place winner and a guest, and each first place winner's teacher will also be invited to attend an awards luncheon. The winning essay will be submitted to the State Bar contest and will be printed in an upcoming issue of *The Houston Lawyer* magazine.

### **Send entries to:**

Ms. Kay Sim  
Houston Bar Association  
First City Tower  
1001 Fannin, Suite 1300  
Houston, Texas 77002

### **For further information contact:**

Elizabeth Parker at (713) 759-1133

# The Houston Bar Association's Annual

## Law Day Poster Contest

**Deadline for contest entry: Friday, March 5, 2010**

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In recognition of Law Day, the Houston Bar Association is sponsoring a Poster Contest. We hope that the contest will allow students to recognize the importance of law in our society. The theme for this year is "**Law in the 21st Century: Emerging Challenges and Enduring Traditions.**" Entries should depict how traditions of the law are being challenged by changes of the 21st century in our world.

### **Grade Levels**

K - 8th grades may participate

### **All entries should be labeled with:**

- 1) The student's name, address, phone number, and grade level;
- 2) The school's name, phone number and school district;
- 3) The principal and teacher's names.

A selection of entries will be on display during Law Week in downtown office buildings and courthouses and from June through September at

the Family Law Center.

All posters should be on standard size poster board. No three dimensional art will be accepted. All entries become the property of the Houston Bar Association. Judges provided courtesy of the Houston Bar Association's Law Week Committee.

### **All prizes will be awarded in two categories:**

#### **K - 3rd grade and 4th - 8th grade.**

First Place Winners - \$150.00 each

Second Place Winners- \$100.00 each

Third Place Winners - \$50.00 each

2 Honorable Mentions - \$25.00 each

Teacher of First Place Winners - \$100.00 each

*Courtesy of The Pratz Simmons Group at Smith Barney.*

In addition, each first place winner and a guest, and each first place winner's teacher will also be invited to attend an awards luncheon. Winning entries will also be submitted to the State Bar contest.

### **Send entries to:**

Ms. Kay Sim

Houston Bar Association

First City Tower

1001 Fannin, Suite 1300

Houston, Texas 77002

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# Special Education Team Poster Contest

The Houston Bar Association is pleased to announce a new competition for its annual Law Day celebration – a poster contest designed especially for Houston-area students in secondary special education (grades 6-12). The new contest is a team competition. Contest entries may be submitted through special education classes, participating organizations, or privately organized teams.

## **Special Education Team Event General Rules**

### **Participation**

Student teams are to be comprised of special education students and, if desired, regular education student coaches, who combine their efforts to produce a single poster entry. The maximum number of team members is 5. The coach-student ratio may not exceed 1:1, as indicated below.

Total Members	Special Education Students	Maximum Number of Student Coaches
5	3-5	2
4	2-4	2
3	1-3	1
2	1-2	1

Student coaches are encouraged but not required. Though the rules limit what tasks student coaches may perform, there are no limits on what tasks special education student team members may perform.

### **The role of the student coaches is to assist team members in the following ways:**

- developing a concept or slogan;
- planning the project;
- gathering necessary supplies and materials;
- attaching a team photo (optional);
- offering support, guidance, encouragement, feedback, and assistance in the execution of the project.

(Over)

The role of the special education student members is to work with student coaches (if any) in developing, planning, and creating a poster that conveys the theme "Respect Our Laws".

- The actual physical work necessary to create the poster (drawing, coloring, painting, lettering, pasting, cutting, etc.) should be performed entirely by the special education student team members.
- Student coaches may demonstrate tasks, participate in practice sessions, prepare "mock-ups" for demonstration, and offer guidance and feedback during the actual creation of the poster, but the actual entry must be prepared entirely by the special education student members.
- All members of the team must participate by playing some role in the creation of the poster entry.
- In preparing entries, teams may use materials and media of their choice. However, teams are asked to use only standard size poster board and avoid any use of syndicated, copyrighted or clip art images. No three dimensional art will be accepted.
- Use of bright colors and simple images is encouraged.

### **Theme**

- The poster contest theme is "Respect Our Laws." Teams may wish to emphasize one aspect of this broad theme, such as "Respect Our Traffic Laws" or "Respect Our Drug Laws," and are free to do so if they choose. Teams are encouraged to include the printed theme on the poster entry, especially if the team elects to emphasize a particular aspect of the broader theme.
- The poster entry must be an original concept and the combined work of the team members.
- The poster should utilize a positive approach in conveying the theme of encouraging all citizens to respect and obey our laws.

### **Judging**

The posters will be judged on the following criteria:

- Quality of Design
- Creativity and Originality of the Artwork and Slogan (if any)
- Adherence to Theme

### **All Entries Must be Labeled with:**

1. Each Team member's name, address, phone number and grade level;
2. The school's name, phone number and school district;
3. The principal and teacher's names.

### **Awards**

All students participating in the Special Education team poster contest will receive participation certificates. Members of the first, second, and third place winning teams will receive trophies or plaques. In addition, members of the first place team and their teacher(s) or sponsoring organization representative(s) will receive special recognition at the annual Houston Young Lawyers Law Day Luncheon to be held on April 27, 2010.

### **Deadline for Entries**

The deadline for entries is March 5, 2010. Poster entries must be delivered or mailed to the Houston Bar Association, 1300 First City Tower, 1001 Fannin Street, Houston, Texas, 77002.