

## 2020 Civics Essay Contest

### Sponsored by the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

In honor of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the Federal Bar Association of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter invites law students to consider why the right to vote is still important. Students should discuss relevant constitutional provisions, amendments, statutes, case law, and other legal authorities and address the historical challenges that certain groups have faced in asserting their voting rights.

#### Who may enter

- This contest is open to students currently enrolled at Ohio law schools within the geographic reach of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, including the following schools: Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Ohio Northern University School of Law, University of Akron School of Law, and University of Toledo School of Law.

#### Essay length and format

- The essay shall be no more than 1,000 words (not including citations) and all legal authorities cited must conform to The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation. Essays must be submitted as a Microsoft Word or PDF file and be in a 12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced text, with one inch margins. Include your name and contact information on the first page only.

#### Entry submission and deadline & Prizes

- Essays must be submitted to Sarah Cleves at [scleves@abais.com](mailto:scleves@abais.com) on or before October 31, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.
- Applicants must be active members of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.
- Winners will be notified no later than November 15, 2020.
- Prizes: First place, \$200; Second place, \$100

#### Judging

- Essays will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  - Understanding of constitutional principles – 40 points
  - Clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme – 30 points
  - Grammar, spelling and composition – 25 points
  - Proper legal citations – 5 points

#### Release, copyright, and terms on disqualification

- Should you become a finalist in the contest, you will be required to submit a release form allowing the Federal Bar Association, at its option, to publish your essay on its website and in print publications. In addition, contest winners will be required to provide and authorize use of photographs of themselves in contest-related promotional materials.
- Adherence to all copyright laws and fair use practices is required. Visit [www.fedbar.org/about\\_us/outreach/civics\\_essay\\_contest](http://www.fedbar.org/about_us/outreach/civics_essay_contest) for more information and resources.
- Reasons for disqualification include: incomplete or improperly formatted entries, off-topic essays, providing false information, committing plagiarism, not meeting the submission deadline, and not providing a release form if requested.

Please direct any questions to Sarah Cleves at [scleves@abais.com](mailto:scleves@abais.com).