



MUSKEGON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY 2018

12th GRADE SPEECH CONTEST

2018 marks the 60th Anniversary of Law Day! The 2018 Law Day Theme is “Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom. The U.S. Constitution created a system of government with distinct and independent branches – Congress, the Presidency, and a Supreme Court. It also defines legislative, executive and judicial powers and outlines how they interact. These three separate branches share power, and each branch serves as a check on the power of the others. These checks and balances provide a framework for freedom, but this framework is not self-executing. We the people must continually act to ensure that our constitutional democracy endures, preserving our liberties and advancing our rights. The Law Day theme enables us to reflect on the separation of powers as fundamental to our constitutional purpose and to consider how our governmental system is working.

QUESTION The topic to be answered in speech format is:

Within the framework established by the Constitution of the United States, the Legislative branch is responsible for making laws and the Judicial branch determines sentences when a person breaks those laws. The Executive branch has the power to undo criminal sentences handed down by the Judicial branch under the pardoning power found in Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution. Recent examples of this pardoning power include President Obama pardoning Chelsea Manning and President Trump pardoning Sheriff Joe Arpaio. Does this pardoning power, as it's applied today, fit within the founders' framework for separation of powers?

Speeches must be **no longer than FOUR MINUTES**. We encourage students to take a position and support that position with research, data, and material. Students should also be aware of the contrary position and be able to argue and support why their position on the issue is better.

Awards for 12th Grade Speech Contest Winners are as follows:

1st Place: \$2,000.00 Scholarship
3rd Place: \$500.00 Scholarship

2nd Place: \$1,000.00 Scholarship
4th Place: \$250.00 Scholarship

EACH SCHOOL IS LIMITED TO THREE STUDENTS. However, we do have the discretion to allow more participants. **TEACHERS:** Please submit any questions and the names of your final three students to:

Jenny McNeill
Ladas Hoopes McNeill Law, PLC
435 Whitehall Road
North Muskegon, MI 49445
(231) 744-6218
jennymcneill@comcast.net



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12th GRADE SPEECH CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Student's Full Name: _____

Student's Home Phone Number: _____ Student's Age: _____

Student's Email Address: _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Name of School: _____ School Phone No. _____

Name of Teacher: _____

Name of College Planning to Attend: _____

College Identification Number (if available): _____

Guests attending the luncheon (limit 2 guests per student): _____

Signature of Entrant: _____

Eligibility: Muskegon County 12th grade students.

Notification: Speech contest will be held at the **MAREC Center on April 27, 2018** and all participants will be invited to attend the Muskegon County Bar Association Law Day Luncheon at the **Lake House restaurant on April 27, 2018 from 11:30am – 1:00pm**. Winners will be announced at the luncheon.

Deadline: **Entries must be received by 5:00 pm April 13, 2018.**

Requirements: A completed entry form must be submitted for each contestant.

Submit to: Jenny McNeill
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