



1868

“ALL PERSONS BORN OR NATURALIZED IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION THEREOF, ARE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE STATE WHEREIN THEY RESIDE. **NO STATE SHALL** MAKE OR ENFORCE ANY LAW WHICH SHALL ABRIDGE THE PRIVILEGES OR IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES; NOR SHALL ANY STATE DEPRIVE ANY PERSON OF LIFE, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY, WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW; NOR **DENY TO ANY PERSON WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION THE EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAWS.”**  
•14TH AMENDMENT • RATIFIED IN 1868•

2018



# 2018 High School Essay Contest

*Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment*

The lawyers and judges of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, through the Middle District Bench Bar Fund, and the members of the Jacksonville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association are pleased to invite students currently in grades 10 through 12 in counties in the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida (Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, and Union) to participate in an essay contest.

## Prompt

THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT WAS RATIFIED 150 YEARS AGO AND COMMANDED, IN PART, THAT NO PERSON SHALL BE DENIED “EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAWS.” CONGRESS AND THE COURTS HAVE APPLIED THIS EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE TO OUR RIGHT TO EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES. HOW DOES THE PHRASE, “EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAWS,” IMPACT YOU AS A STUDENT ?



**FIRST PLACE: \$2,000**  
**SECOND PLACE: \$1,000**  
**THIRD PLACE: \$500**

**ENTRIES MUST BE  
SUBMITTED ONLINE**

VISIT [WWW.FLMD.USCOURTS.GOV](http://WWW.FLMD.USCOURTS.GOV)

### Questions?

Contact Mary Margaret Giannini at (904)301-6754  
or [2018\\_essay\\_contest@flmd.uscourts.gov](mailto:2018_essay_contest@flmd.uscourts.gov)

### DEADLINE

NOON, OCTOBER 15, 2018

## Sponsors

The lawyers and judges of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, through the Middle District Bench Bar Fund and the Jacksonville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

## Who

The contest is open to students currently in grades 10 through 12 in counties in the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida. The counties are Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, and Union. Children, grandchildren, stepchildren, and members of the household of a federal judge or federal court employee and member of the Jacksonville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association are excluded.

## When

The essay and entry form must be submitted by noon on October 15, 2018. The entry form includes instructions for submitting your essay. Please complete your essay before submitting the entry form.

## What

The essay must respond to the prompt. The essay must be the original work of the person submitting the essay.

## Length

An essay may not exceed 1,000 words. Citations are excluded from the word count.

## Essay Format

- (1) Essays must be typed and submitted as a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or WordPerfect (.wpd) document.
- (2) Essays must be double-spaced.
- (3) Essays must be in 12 pt. Times New Roman.
- (4) No identification information of student may be included anywhere except on the cover page.
- (5) Citations must be placed in footnotes, endnotes, or bibliographies.

## Number of Submissions

Only one essay may be submitted per student.

## Submission Packet

A submission packet must include:

- (1) A contest entry form completed and submitted online;
- (2) A cover page (with only the full name of the student, the name of the school or “homeschooled,” and the word count), uploaded and submitted with the completed contest entry form online; and
- (3) The essay, uploaded and submitted with the completed contest entry form and cover page online.

## Judges

The essays will be judged by lawyers and judges in the Jacksonville Division. Their decisions will be final.

## Criteria

- (1) Understanding of constitutional principles (35%);
- (2) Clarity/effectiveness of expressing the theme (30%);
- (3) Grammar, spelling, and composition (20%); and
- (4) Originality (15%).

## Recognition

Winners will be announced on or about November 9, 2018, and recognized at a special ceremony at the Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse on November 15, 2018, and at a luncheon at the River Club on December 6, 2018. The first place winner will also be invited to shadow a judge at a mutually agreeable weekday and time.

## Grounds for Disqualification

Submitting an essay that (1) is not the student’s original, authored work; (2) misses the submission deadline; (3) provides fake entry information; (4) plagiarizes content; and (5) is submitted as a separate Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF document outside of the entry form.

## License to Use Essays, Names, and Photographs

Winners will be required to submit a release allowing the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida to publish the essay in print publications and on court public websites. In addition, winners will be asked to provide and authorize use of photographs of themselves in contest-related promotional materials, which may include photographs taken at the November 15, 2018, ceremony and the December 6, 2018, ceremony.

