

THE CONSTITUTION OVER TIME



2022 HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

PRESS RELEASE

Jacksonville, Florida, December 7, 2022

For Immediate Release

The lawyers and judges of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, and the members of the Jacksonville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association are pleased to announce and congratulate the following winners of its **2022 HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION WEEK.**

First Place, Shawn Zhudro

Flagler-Palm Coast High School

Prize: \$2,000

Classroom Grant to Shawn Zhudro's Teacher, Allison Elledge

Prize: \$500

Second Place, Emma Lee

Stanton College Preparatory School

Prize: \$1,000

Classroom Grant to Emma Lee's Teacher, Maura Donoher

Prize: \$500

Third Place (Tie), Andrew Diaz

Samuel W. Wolfson School for Advanced Studies

Prize: \$500

Classroom Grant to Andrew Diaz's Teacher, Heidi Rose

Prize: \$500

Third Place (Tie), Kaiya West

Trinity Christian Academy

Prize: \$500

Classroom Grant to Kaiya West's Teacher, Christine Brown

Prize: \$500

In addition to awarding prizes to the individual winners and their teachers, the Court presented Trinity Christian Academy with a School Grant of \$1,000 for the school with the most qualifying essays submitted (34).

The contest attracted 178 entries from 6 of the 12 counties in the Jacksonville Division (Bradford, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, and Putnam), 23 high schools, Florida Virtual School, and one home school student.

Students submitting essays in the Contest were asked to consider how Amendments to the United States Constitution have helped to promote and advance our founding document's overall goals. In particular, students were asked to examine the Constitution's preamble, and then select one of the 27 amendments and explain how that Amendment upholds the framers' goals as articulated in the Preamble.

The 175 essays submitted were thoughtful and demonstrated an understanding of the framers' initial goals for our democracy. The Top 10 winners' essays each presented diverse responses to the essay prompt by delving into the history of the First, Fifth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-Fourth Amendments and convincingly articulating how each Amendment advanced the framers' goals.

The student winners were recognized at a formal ceremony at the Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse in Jacksonville on December 7, 2022. Chief United States District Judge Timothy J. Corrigan, United States District Judge Marcia Morales Howard, and United States District Judge Brian J. Davis presided over the ceremony, recognizing the excellent work of the winners.

"For the last five years, the High School Essay Contest, has been and continues to be an important part of the Court's community outreach," says Judge Howard. "Knowledgeable and informed citizens are crucial to a healthy and functioning democracy. The Court's community outreach programs strive to educate students

and adults alike about the federal judiciary and how it serves to advance the goals and ideals articulated in the United States Constitution and its Preamble.”

The student contributions to this year’s Essay Contest demonstrated an excellent knowledge of our Constitution’s foundations and goals, leaving the Judges and lawyers who helped grade those essays confident about the ongoing strength and longevity of our nation’s democracy.

###

Media Inquiries:

Suzanne M. Judas, Esq.

Community Outreach Coordinator

Jacksonville Chapter, Federal Bar Association

(904) 910-0354

communityoutreach@jaxfedbar.org