

PRESS RELEASE
Jacksonville, Florida, November 11, 2019
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 the **2019 HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST**.

First Place: Mark Mori, Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Prize Award of \$2,000
Second Place: Inéz Anais Nieves Suárez, Fleming Island High School, Prize Award of \$1,000
Third Place – Tie : Ella George, Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Prize Award of \$500
Marissa Ann Cochran Norton, Paxon School for Advanced Studies, Prize Award of \$500

Teachers of these winners will receive a classroom grant Award of \$500

The contest attracted 112 entries from 5 of the 12 counties in the Jacksonville Division - Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns - and from 22 high schools and 1 home school.

Students who submitted essays in the contest were prompted to identify a historical or current event that exemplifies the concepts of “separation of powers” and “checks and balances.” They were asked to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of a government whose powers are divided among each of the three branches of our government.

The 2019 High School Essay contest is part of the Federal Court’s educational outreach initiative. “Understanding the role of the court in our system of government is critical to maintaining the trust and confidence of the public,” says Marcia Morales Howard, United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. “Programs like the 2019 High School Essay Contest allow the court to engage young people directly in a dialogue about what courts really do and the important role courts play in our American government. They also allow the court to expose young people to a different side of the justice system than their life circumstances may have presented to them and perhaps encourage them to aspire to play some role in the workings of the justice system or the third branch.”

Award winners will be recognized in an Awards Ceremony in the Ceremonial Courtroom of the Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse in Jacksonville on November 20, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. In addition, the student winners will be recognized at the Jacksonville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association’s Spirit of Giving Luncheon on December 12, 2019, at noon.

Funding for the 2019 High School Essay Contest comes from the lawyers and judges of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida through the Court’s Bench Bar Fund.

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