



MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals and Social Studies Department Chairpersons

FROM: Erica Eschbach
Staff Attorney
Supreme Court of Guam

SUBJECT: 2025 Law Month Essay Contest

DATE: April 11, 2025

May 1 of every year marks Law Day, a day in which the nation celebrates the rule of law. For the past several years, the Judiciary of Guam, the District Court of Guam, and the Guam Bar Association have partnered to sponsor Law Month, hosting outreach events that underscore how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms we all share. Our Law Month programming has been nationally recognized as among the best in the nation, having earned the American Bar Association's Law Day Outstanding Activity Award for Best Public Program ten times since 2008.

The 2025 Law Month theme, "*The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One,*" encourages us to reflect on how our civic lives unite us as one community, whether through voting for our representatives, serving on juries, or helping each other during national crises or natural disasters.

Attached is a flyer for the annual Law Month Essay Contest. Teachers may wish to incorporate the contest into the class curriculum, either for a grade or for extra credit. Please have the students complete the entry form and attach it to the essay. The deadline to submit entries is **Friday, May 2, 2025**. Students are encouraged to submit their essays via email. If you have any questions, please contact me at (671) 475-3395 or email eeschbach@guamcourts.gov.

Thank you, and I look forward to your students' participation.



LAW MONTH 2025 ESSAY CONTEST GRADES 6-8

In recognition of Law Month, the Judiciary of Guam, the District Court of Guam, and the Guam Bar Association are sponsoring an Essay Contest to allow students to recognize the importance of law in our society.

The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One

The 2025 Law Month theme, "The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One," encourages us to reflect on how our civic lives unite us as one community.

TO ENTER, STUDENTS MUST WRITE AN ESSAY ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution begins with "We the People," but not all Americans have the same voice in government. Representative democracy is where a group of people elect a person to represent them and their interests. This is an important part of American government. Guam's congressional representative cannot vote. They can serve on committees, speak on the House floor, and suggest new laws, but they cannot vote on legislation. This means Guam's residents do not have the same power to influence national laws as people living in U.S. states.

How do you think this affects the way residents of Guam view their role in American government? Do you think this system is fair? Why or why not? In your essay, consider specific examples of issues where not having a vote in Congress might impact daily life in Guam. These could include decisions about military bases on the island, money for local schools and hospitals, laws to protect Guam's natural environment, or help after typhoons.

CONTEST RULES

- Students from 6th–8th grade are eligible to participate.
- Essays must address the questions above.
- Essays must be no more than 750 words, typewritten, and double-spaced.
- Essays must be the student's original work.



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

Entries must be emailed to eeschbach@guamcourts.gov or delivered to the Supreme Court of Guam, 3rd Floor, Guam Judicial Center.

Student's Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Certification of Student:

I am submitting an original essay to the Law Month 2025 Essay Contest. I certify that this essay is my own work. I understand that my essay will not be returned and may be used in activities publicizing the contest.

Signature