



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 9-12

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:

Guam is an unincorporated territory of the United States—meaning Congress has extended only some rights under the Constitution as applicable to the residents of Guam. The U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection and representation for "We the People," but residents of Guam are not allowed to vote for President or have voting representation in Congress.

How does this affect your understanding of the Constitution's promise of equality and representation? In your essay, examine specific historical or current situations where Guam's political status as an unincorporated territory has led to different treatment than U.S. states. Consider questions such as: How has this limited representation affected policies on issues important to residents of Guam, such as military presence, environmental regulations, or economic development? What alternatives or reforms might better fulfill the democratic principles outlined in the Constitution?

CONTEST RULES

- Students from 9th–12th grade are eligible to participate.
- Essays must address the question above.
- Essays must be no more than 1,000 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