



NEWS RELEASE OC 16-10
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Winners of the Nationwide Bill of Rights—First Amendment Cartoon Contest Announced on Law Day, May 1 *Six 1st prize winners from three states*

SAN FRANCISCO—The Administrative Office of the Courts, in partnership with nonprofit civics organization Constitutional Rights Foundation, is pleased to announce the winners of the First Amendment Cartoon Contest. Six 1st prize recipients are from California, Illinois, and New York. Thirty Honorable Mention recipients are from nine states, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Oregon, New York, Texas, and Virginia. Winners were notified on Law Day, May 1. Their artwork may be viewed at www.courtsed.org/firstamendmentcontest/winners.html.

The contest was open to high school, middle school, and elementary school students nationally. Through their artwork, students presented their perspectives on freedoms of speech, press, assembly, petition, and religion. The contest was announced on Bill of Rights Day on December 15 to promote a greater understanding of our Constitution and Bill of Rights through a First Amendment Cartoon Contest and to help educate youth about the role of the judicial branch in our system of democracy. To see other law related education programs, go to www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/lawrelated.htm.

Law Day is a national day to celebrate the rule of law and its contributions to the freedoms Americans enjoy, and where informed citizens are essential to a Democracy generally. However, civic understanding today is low in this country.

- For adults, this is illustrated by a recent survey by the National Center for State Courts (2009):
 - Only one in five (21%) randomly samples U.S. adults correctly names all three branches of government.
 - While more than 4 in 10 (44%) drew a blank and failed to correctly identify any of the three branches.
- For students, this is illustrated by the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress Civics Results (2006):
 - Two thirds (66%) of our students in 4th, 8th, and 12th grade are not proficient in their understanding of the democratic institutions and ideals necessary for our democracy.
 - 72% of 8th graders could not correctly identify the historical purpose of the Declaration of Independence.
- Benjamin Franklin is quoted as describing our form of government as “[a] Republic, if you can keep it.”

(more)

Here is a complete list of winners.

First Amendment Cartoon Contest May 1, 2010

First Prize

Art category	Grade level	Student	School	City, State
Single panel	Elementary	Stephen	Dr. Juliet Elementary School	Bakersfield, CA
Comic strip	Elementary	Joyce	Burbank Elementary School	Artesia, CA
Single panel	Middle	Afreen	Hawthorn Middle School	Vernon Hills, IL
Comic strip	Middle	Isabella	JFK Middle School	Bethpage, NY
Single panel	High School	Ye	Crescenta Valley High School	La Crescenta, CA
Comic strip	High School	Yolanda	Diamond Bar High School	Diamond Bar, CA

Honorable Mention

Elementary: single panel

Student	School	City, State
Courtney	McKinley Elementary School	San Gabriel, CA
Micah	Price Christian Academy	Lompoc, CA
Amy	Coulson Tough	The Woodlands, TX
Maddie	Talbot Elementary	Gainesville, FL
Melony	Montvue Elementary	Pomona, CA

Elementary: comic strip

Student	School	City, State
Madison	Hayes School	Kennesaw, GA
Charlie	McKinley Elementary School	San Gabriel, CA
Rebekah	Jackson St. School	Yreka, CA
Michelle	McKinley Elementary	San Gabriel, CA
Blair	Coulson Tough Elementary	The Woodlands, TX

Middle School: single panel

Student	School	City, State
Megan	Longfellow Middle School	Falls Church, VA
Soo	Bert Lynn Middle School	Torrance, CA
Maliah	Mediapolis Community School	Mediapolis, IA
Kenneth	Stoller Middle School	Portland, OR
Lisa	Hawthorne Middle School	Vernon Hills, IL

Middle School: comic strip

Student	School	City, State
Adeel	Carmenita Middle School	Cerritos, CA
Ayah	Carmenita Middle School	Cerritos, CA
Michelle	JKF Middle School	Bethpage, NY
Kylie	Miraleste Middle School	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Dean	JKF Middle School	Bethpage, NY

High School: single panel

Student	School	City, State
Alyssa	La Salle High School	Pasadena, CA
Hannah	Grassfield High School	Chesapeake, VA
Charlene	Diamond Bar High School	Diamond Bar, CA
Janelle	Culver City High School	Culver City, CA
Elham	Beverly Hills High School	Beverly Hills, CA

High School: comic strip

Student	School	City, State
Dylan	Stuarts Draft High School	Crimora, VA
Eunice	Diamond Bar High School	Diamond Bar, CA
Oxana	Beverly Hills High School	Beverly Hills, CA
Carolina	Glendale High School	Glendale, CA
Jennifer	Crescenta Valley High School	La Crescenta, CA

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.