



NEWS RELEASE OC 38-11
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Winners of the 2nd Annual 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 the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF), is pleased to announce the winners of the second annual First Amendment Cartoon Contest. The theme of this year's contest is freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The six first prize recipients are from California, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. Thirty contestants from 12 states—California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming—received honorable mentions. Winners were notified Saturday, April 30, the day before Law Day, May 1. Their artwork may be viewed at www.courtsed.org.

Since the earliest days of the American Republic, cartoonists have entertained, provided social commentaries, and contributed to our civic life. In that spirit, the First Amendment Cartoon Contest was born. Organizers of the contest hope to increase student understanding of the Bill of Rights and the United States Constitution as well as to help educate youth about the role of the judicial branch in our system of democracy and their role as future jurors.

In February 2011, the American Bar Association (ABA) called on federal and state governments to require civics education for elementary, middle, and secondary students in the nation's schools and to provide grant funding for such programs. A Harris Interactive Survey conducted for the ABA in July 2005 showed that nearly half (45 percent) of Americans were unable to correctly identify the three branches of government as "legislative, executive, and judicial." Moreover, 57 percent of Americans couldn't name even a single current justice on the U.S. Supreme Court (FindLaw, December 2005 national survey), and only 27 percent of Americans know the Bill of Rights expressly prohibits establishing an official religion in the United States (American Civic Literacy Report, 2008).

The First Amendment Cartoon Contest was announced on Bill of Rights Day on December 15 and was opened to elementary, middle, and high school students nationally. Criteria for judging are based on students' understanding of the First Amendment, creativity, and artistic merit. There were 1,315 submissions this year, a 40 percent increase from last year. A complete list of winners is given below. Funding for this contest was jointly funded by the CRF and the Administration of Justice Fund, which allows civic-minded groups to make monetary donations that support the goals of the judicial branch. For more information about the fund, see www.courts.ca.gov/xbcr/cc/ajf.pdf.

(more)

Law Day is a national day to celebrate the rule of law and its contributions to the freedoms Americans enjoy as well as the essential role informed citizens play in a democracy. To see other law-related education programs, go to www.courts.ca.gov/programs-lawrelated.htm.

About Constitutional Rights Foundation

Constitutional Rights Foundation is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization that provides educational programs and materials in the areas of law, civics, history, and civic participation. Visit them at www.crf-usa.org.

First Amendment Cartoon Art Contest Winners 2011

Winners

First Prize

Category	Grade Level	Student	School	City, State
Single Panel	Elementary	Stephen	Dr. Juliet Thorner Elementary	Bakersfield, CA
Comic Strip	Elementary	Nick	Fredericksburg Elementary School	Fredericksburg , PA
Single Panel	Middle School	Hanbi	Brea Junior High School	Brea, CA
Comic Strip	Middle School	Hayley	Indian Land Middle School	Indian Land, SC
Single Panel	High School	Griffin	Acalanes High School	Lafayette, CA
Comic Strip	High School	Dominique	CALS Early College High School	Los Angeles, CA

Honorable Mentions

Elementary: Single Panel

Student	School	City, State
Liam	Anderson Elementary School	Cheyenne, WY
Jordan	Eisenhower Elementary School	Louisville, KY
Hannah	Tomoka Elementary School	Ormond Beach, FL
Devyn	Severna Park Elementary School	Severna Park, MD
Jordan	Varner Elementary School	Powder Springs, GA

Elementary: Comic Strip

Student	School	City, State
Eliab	Varner Elementary School	Powder Springs, GA
Gwenivere	Eisenhower Elementary School	Louisville, KY
Elizabeth	Anderson Elementary School	Cheyenne, WY
Cristobal	Walnut Acres Elementary School	Walnut Creek, CA
Emma	Anderson Elementary School	Cheyenne, WY

(more)

Honorable Mentions - continued

Middle School: Single Panel

Student	School	City, State
Betty	Brea Junior High School	Brea, CA
Tiana	Lovell J. Honiss School	Dumont, NJ
Kylie	Miraleste Intermediate School	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Chloe	Judge Frank Berry Middle School	Mesquite, TX
Alexandra	Miraleste Intermediate School	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Middle School: Comic Strip

Student	School	City, State
Nicole	Coronado Middle School	Coronado, CA
Amy	Walnut Springs Middle School	Westerville, OH
Trevor	Sage Valley Jr. High School	Gillette, WY
Nicole	John F. Kennedy Middle School	Bethpage, NY
Stacy	Liberty Middle School	Camas, WA

High School: Single Panel

Student	School	City, State
Edwin	Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School	Jamaica, NY
Hira	Noor ul Iman School	Monmouth Junction, NJ
Tonya	Middlesex County Academy	Edison, NJ
Rachel	International Community School	Kirkland, WA
Jane	Gabrielino High School	San Gabriel, CA

High School: Comic Strip

Student	School	City, State
Glennis	Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School	Jamaica, NY
Marisol	CALS Early College High School	Los Angeles, CA
Vivian	Midwood High School @ Brooklyn College	Brooklyn, NY
Sarah	Blair High School	Blair, NE
Jordan	Blair High School	Blair, NE

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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.