



2019 NINTH CIRCUIT
CIVICS CONTEST



**The 4TH AMENDMENT
in the 21ST CENTURY**

*What is an
"Unreasonable Search
and Seizure"
in the Digital Age?*

2019 CONTEST WINNERS

THE ORGANIZERS THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR
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U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT
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U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
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DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GUAM
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO
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U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA
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DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN
DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

*PRIZE MONEY AND OTHER CONTEST COSTS ARE FUNDED THROUGH ATTORNEY
ADMISSION FEES COLLECTED BY THE COURTS TO FUND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
FOR THE BAR AND COMMUNITY.

A Word About the Contest

The 2019 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is a circuit-wide essay and video competition for high school students. The contest focused on the role of the judicial branch in preserving our constitutional rights. The goal is to help young people to become knowledgeable citizens who are better able to participate in our democracy. Now in its fourth year, the contest is organized by the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee in collaboration with all of the federal courts in the circuit.

The theme of the 2019 contest was “The 4th Amendment in the 21st Century—What is an ‘Unreasonable Search and Seizure’ in the Digital Age?” Students were challenged to write an essay or produce a short video focusing on how the federal courts have applied 4th Amendment protections to electronic data devices, particularly the cellphones upon which almost everyone relies.

The contest was open to young people in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, along with the United States Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In all, 1,308 essays and 138 videos were submitted by students from across the circuit. Preliminary judging done at the district level narrowed the field to 44 essays and 25 videos. Final judging was done by some members of the Courts and Community Committee, which selected the top three finishers in each competition, and by court executives, and the director of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society.

We would like to thank all of the federal courts of the Ninth Circuit for their support of the contest. We could not have succeeded without the help of the many judges, attorneys, court staff, court library staff, and educators from throughout the circuit who contributed their time and efforts.



*District Judge
Janis L. Sammartino,
chair of the Ninth
Circuit Courts
and Community
Committee*

WINNING ESSAY CONTEST ENTRIES

1st
place

NATALIE CHAI FRASER
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

DEFENDING LIBERTY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

the increased relevance of the Fourth Amendment

“The progress of science in furnishing the Government with means of espionage is not likely to stop...ways may someday be developed by which the Government, without removing papers from secret drawers, can reproduce them in court...Advances in the psychic and related sciences may bring means of exploring unexpressed beliefs, thoughts and emotions.”

-Justice Brandeis, Dissenting in Olmstead v. US¹

The Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution establishes “the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable search and seizure”. Written following the era of British “Writs of Assistance”, it was designed to protect citizens from the general searches conducted by petty colonial officers.² A full defense of liberty necessarily included a defense of privacy. Unimagined by the



Natalie Chai Fraser is a junior at West High School and a happy resident of Anchorage, Alaska. When not busy “nerding” out over the Constitution, she can be found volunteering as a peer sexual health and consent educator, tutoring students in math, working in a bike shop, and singing in a band. This year she started MHATS, a youth mental health storytelling group. Whether deep conversations, warm pastries, or long hikes, her greatest joys have taught her that good things are worth waiting for. Natalie looks forward to studying biomedical engineering and global public health.

Framers of the constitution, mobile smartphones, GPS tracking, and drone surveillance give today's government a greater ability than ever to access, assess, and arrest based on information obtained through technology. In response, citizens have defended their right to privacy and challenged these searches, most notably in cases such as *Katz v. United States*, *Riley v. California*, and *Carpenter v. United States*. As the scope of searches and seizures expand, it remains the crucial responsibility of the judicial branch to reinterpret the Fourth Amendment for the digital age.

In the landmark case of *Katz v. United States*, the court expanded the Fourth Amendment to include information transmitted through technology. Katz ran an interstate gambling operation and was arrested after the FBI bugged a phonebooth he used for the crime.³ His case challenged decades of Supreme Court precedent, which held that violations of the Fourth Amendment depended on physical intrusion—information from a bugged phone conversation was not physically obtained, so a warrant was not considered necessary.⁴ When the court ruled in Katz's favor, this “trespass doctrine” was overturned. Justice Potter Stewart reasoned “the Fourth Amendment protects people, not places”, applying to oral statements as well as physical objects.⁵ Furthermore, Justice Harlan introduced the idea of a “reasonable expectation of privacy”.⁶ Because Katz had closed the door of the phonebooth, he had a reasonable expectation of privacy—the same security a citizen expects in their house—despite being in a public place. *Katz* both expanded the scope of Fourth Amendment protection to include oral statements, and through the idea of “reasonableness” created a new weighing mechanism for future cases.

Since *Katz*, other cases have challenged the idea of when citizens have a “reasonable expectation of privacy” when using digital technology. In *Riley v. California*, the Supreme Court examined the “search incident to arrest” exception established in *Chimel v. California*, which allows law enforcement to search a person and their immediate belongings without a warrant.⁷ The court sided with *Riley*, ruling this exception did not apply to the contents of a cell phone, due their “immense storage capacity...A decade ago officers might have occasionally stumbled across a highly personal item such as a diary, but today many of the more than 90% of American adults who own cell phones keep on their person a digital record of nearly every aspect of their lives”.⁸ While cell phones and the

data within them present little physical threat to law enforcement, their search is a significant threat to the privacy interests of citizens, and therefore, must be protected by the Fourth Amendment.

The application of Fourth Amendment was further examined by the courts in *Carpenter v. United States*, where law enforcement obtained location tracking data without a warrant by using information from a wireless service provider. By finding the location where calls were placed, as well as their date and time, law enforcement was able to create a near complete picture of Carpenter's movements, charging him with robbery that affected interstate commerce.⁹ *Carpenter* challenged *Smith v. Maryland*, in which the court stated there was "no legitimate expectation of privacy" for information given to third parties.¹⁰ Since Carpenter's use of his cell phone transferred information to a third party—his wireless service provider—the government argued he did not have a reasonable expectation of privacy. The court disagreed. To quote *Riley*, "diminished privacy interests does not mean that the Fourth Amendment falls out of the picture entirely."¹¹ The majority sided with Carpenter. As stated by Justice Roberts, "location information is continually logged for all of the 400 million devices in the United States..the police may—in the Government's view—call upon the results of that surveillance without regard to the constraints of the Fourth Amendment. Only the few without cell phones could escape this tireless and absolute surveillance."¹² Information given to the "third party" of our wireless carriers is not truly voluntary. In the face of such significant privacy concerns, the third party doctrine is outweighed, and the tracking of cell site locations is protected by the Fourth Amendment.

As technology expands the ability of the government to examine the private lives of individuals, the Supreme Court's application of the Fourth Amendment must strengthen in turn. Any applications of the Fourth Amendment to current or future technology will likely again consider the idea of reasonableness, and in the modern era, we must ask—can any action we take, whether in the real world or online, have an expectation of privacy? As shown in *Katz v. United States*, *Riley v. California*, and *Carpenter v. United States*, technology has made the tracking of our most intimate details more possible than ever. The digital age is characterized not only by additional capability for the government to conduct searches, but a fundamental shift in the nature of these searches themselves. We must not

allow the progress of science to erode our right to privacy, and our ability to maintain our liberty. Now, more than ever, the Fourth Amendment is necessary to protect the citizenry not only from an overly efficient government but the technology that makes it so.

¹Olmstead v. United States. 277 U.S. 474 (1928)

²"Writ of Assistance." Encyclopaedia Britannica, www.britannica.com/topic/writ-of-assistance. Accessed 9 Apr. 2019.

³Katz v. United States. 389 U.S. 347 (1967)

⁴Olmstead v. United States. 277 U.S. 438 (1928)

⁵Katz v. United States. 389 U.S. 347 (1967)

⁶Katz v. United States. 389 U.S. 347 (1967)

⁷Chimel v. California, 395 U.S. 752

⁸Riley v. California, 573 U.S. (2014)

⁹Carpenter v. United States, 585 U.S. (2018)

¹⁰Smith v. Maryland, 442 U.S. 735 (1979)

¹¹Riley v. California, 573 U.S. (2014)

¹²Carpenter v. United States, 585 U.S. (2018)

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PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Introduction

Social media has transformed the modern world. Its prevalence and impact is unequivocally on the rise. Facebook, the most popular social network, has over 1 billion active users, and the average Facebook user shares ninety pieces of information monthly.¹ This online information can be a valuable resource to law enforcers. In fact, a 2016 survey of over 500 domestic law enforcement agencies found that 60% had contacted social media companies to obtain evidence for criminal investigations.² With the growing number of social media users, it has only become more crucial to answer the question: what constitutes "unreasonable search and seizure" in the Digital Age?

An analysis of Fourth Amendment doctrine reveals that under most circumstances, by sharing information online, individuals forfeit a reasonable expectation of privacy. Although recent developments have implicated Fourth Amendment protection in the context of social media, the Supreme Court has yet to deliver a conclusive stance on the matter. As technology continues to advance, the Court will soon have to examine these issues in greater depth.



Kellen Vu graduated as valedictorian of Arizona School for the Arts, where he studied piano and clarinet. In his free time, he enjoys playing guitar and producing for The Sequels, an indie band that writes songs inspired by books. In 2017, he represented Arizona at Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation competition. In 2018, he was selected by the Arizona Republic as one of Arizona's 18 highest achieving teens. This fall, he will begin studying human biology at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

A History of Fourth Amendment Doctrine

The Fourth Amendment guarantees "the right of the people to be secure ... against unreasonable searches and seizures."³ Justice Harlan's concurring opinion in *Katz v. United States* (1967) has come to govern the standard for what qualifies as a "search."⁴ In *Katz*, the Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional for law enforcers to wiretap a public phone booth without a warrant.⁵ The result was a two-part test for a violation of the Fourth Amendment: (1) the individual has exhibited a subjective expectation of privacy, and (2) society recognizes this expectation as objectively reasonable.⁶

Unfortunately, the second inquiry doesn't always yield a clear answer, especially in an online context. In *United States v. Knotts* (1983), the Supreme Court ruled that the police were justified in using a hidden beeper to track a suspect's car in public without a warrant. The Court's logic was that any average member of the public could have just as easily seen the driver. Therefore, there was no reasonable expectation of privacy.⁷ Using this "plain view" doctrine, it can be argued that monitoring individuals on public social media is analogous to the real-world tracking seen in *Knotts*.

The third-party doctrine acts as an additional barrier against online privacy. First established in *United States v. Miller* (1976), it states that once an individual voluntarily shares information with a third party, they forfeit a reasonable expectation of privacy.⁸ In an online context, the result is that government agents can gain access to posted social media data without any probable cause requirements, even if that information was shared to a limited circle.

Fortunately, a number of cases have suggested the possibility of extending Fourth Amendment protections to the digital sphere. In *Katz*, Justice Stewart emphasized that "the Fourth Amendment protects people, not places," suggesting that a constitutional violation can occur even without a physical trespass.⁹ Justice Harlan reinforced this idea, saying, "Electronic as well as physical intrusion into a place [with a reasonable expectation of privacy] may constitute a violation of the Fourth Amendment."¹⁰

In *US v. Jones* (2012), the Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional for law enforcers to install a GPS tracker on a vehicle without a warrant.¹¹

Justice Sotomayor used her concurrence in *Jones* to challenge the breadth of the third-party doctrine, stating, "[We should] reconsider the premise that an individual has no reasonable expectation of privacy in information voluntarily disclosed to third parties. This approach is ill suited to the digital age."¹² Thus, Sotomayor challenged the idea that secrecy is a prerequisite to privacy.

In *Riley v. California* (2014), the Supreme Court ruled that the warrantless search of a cell phone violated the Fourth Amendment.¹³ In response to the argument that cell phones should be searchable like closed containers during an arrest, Justice Robert stated, "Modern cell phones ... implicate privacy concerns far beyond those implicated by the search of a cigarette pack, a wallet, or a purse."¹⁴ This ruling reaffirms the idea that the Fourth Amendment must be adapted to the Digital Age.

More recently, in *Carpenter v. United States* (2018), the Supreme Court ruled that the warrantless acquisition of cell-site records violated the Fourth Amendment.¹⁵ These records included the date, time, and approximate location of calls made by an individual. In this case, the Court concluded that the third-party doctrine didn't apply because of the intrusiveness of cell-site surveillance. This ruling presents a strong argument in favor of online privacy.

In addition, legal precedent has protected information that isn't obviously available to an average member of the public. For instance, in *United States v. Karo* (1984), the Supreme Court ruled that using a beeper to track the movement of an individual inside their house violated the Fourth Amendment.¹⁶ Similarly, in *Kyllo v. United States* (2001), the Supreme Court ruled that using a heat sensor to detect marijuana grow lights inside an individual's house was unconstitutional.¹⁷ These precedents insinuate privacy rights, not only in the context of social media, but also in the context of surveillance drones—another contentious point in the discussion of privacy in the Digital Age.

Conclusion

Social media is an extraordinary forum that facilitates communication of all kinds, from personal to political to artistic. It's no surprise that the government has found social networks to be rich sources of data

for investigative purposes. However, unbounded government access to social media could have serious implications. Without restraint, online surveillance could disproportionately affect communities of color as a result of flawed algorithmic policing.¹⁸ Furthermore, citizens could lose an avenue to share their unpopular opinions with a safe, limited-access community. As the Supreme Court notes, "Fourth Amendment protections become the more necessary when the targets of official surveillance may be those suspected of unorthodoxy in their political beliefs."¹⁹ Ultimately, the Court's understanding of the Fourth Amendment in the Digital Age remains unsettled. Until it is, users should stay aware of the information they post online and the image thus projected to government officials.

¹Lisa A. Schmidt, *Social Networking and the Fourth Amendment: Location Tracking on Facebook, Twitter, and Foursquare* (Cornell Law School, 2013).

²Rachel Levinson-Waldman, *Government Access to and Manipulation of Social Media: Legal and Policy Challenges* (Howard Law Journal, 2018).

³Legal Information Institute, "Fourth Amendment," February 5, 2010, https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/fourth_amendment.

⁴Schmidt, *Social Networking and the Fourth Amendment*.

⁵Oyez, "Katz v. United States," accessed April 8, 2019, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1967/35>.

⁶Legal Information Institute, "Expectation of Privacy," Cornell Law School, September 17, 2009, https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/expectation_of_privacy.

⁷Levinson-Waldman, *Government Access to and Manipulation*.

⁸Brian Mund, *Social Media Searches and the Reasonable Expectation of Privacy* (Yale Journal of Law and Technology, 2018).

⁹Oyez, "Katz."

¹⁰Schmidt, *Social Networking and the Fourth Amendment*.

¹¹Oyez, "United States v. Jones," accessed April 8, 2019, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2011/10-1259>.

¹²Levinson-Waldman, *Government Access to and Manipulation*.

¹³Oyez, "Riley v. California," accessed April 8, 2019, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2013/13-132>.

¹⁴Levinson-Waldman, *Government Access to and Manipulation*.

¹⁵Oyez, "Carpenter v. United States," accessed April 8, 2019, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2017/16-402>.

¹⁶Levinson-Waldman, *Government Access to and Manipulation*.

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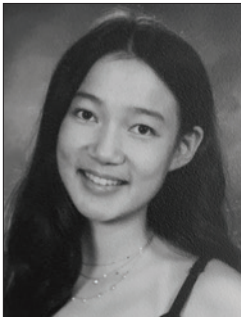
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3rd
place

JESSICA CHOU ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA

I am one of 245 million Americans who own a laptop¹, one of 310 million who have a cell phone², and one in 258 million who use social media.³ But I am not merely a statistic. Every post I write, every picture I take, and every call I make is part of the mosaic of metadata that makes me me. So much of my life is captured, recorded, communicated through and made possible by electronic devices, that the big data produced is incredibly revealing and simply unfathomable.

Yet, the Fourth Amendment shelters my information from the government by establishing the “right to be secure in our persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures”.⁴ To understand the implications of the right to privacy today, it is important to recognize the history of the Fourth Amendment. In the colonial era, British officials employed writs of assistance, or general warrants, to search colonists’ homes and seize contraband. These warrants were issued without probable cause or reasonable doubt, allowing British officials to unjustly violate colonists’ privacy.⁵ As a result, this inspired the “probable cause” requirement to warrants, outlined in the Fourth Amendment, which ensures warrants are issued with proven valid purpose. But, as our world has evolved dramatically



Jessica Chou is a recent graduate of Arcadia High School in Arcadia, California. This past year, she enjoyed learning about the Bill of Rights as part of her school’s Constitution Team Unit 5 which competed in We the People, a program that promotes civics education in schools through simulated congressional hearings. In her free time, Jessica loves reading the news, painting, watching movies, taking photographs and traveling. She will be attending the University of California, Berkeley, in the fall and will

major in architecture. Jessica loves both the sciences and arts equally, and hopes to combine the two through smart and sustainable design as a means to improve lives.

since the inception of the Fourth Amendment in 1789, the protections laid out against unreasonable physical searches and seizures should be extended to also safeguard electronic information in the modern digital age.

The case *US versus Miller* (1939) first established the idea that an issuance of a subpoena to a third party for information does not violate the rights of a defendant.⁶ Yet, this theory, the third party doctrine, is impractical, because nearly all the services we require for a modern lifestyle are outsourced to specialists in our society. For example, I pay T-Mobile for cell phone services, Edison for electricity, and Giggle Fiber for the Internet. The reality of agreeing to the terms and conditions of such companies for basic services should not be a hindrance to enjoying the safeguards from government intrusion. Instead, the Supreme Court has relied on the “reasonable expectation of privacy” test established in the later landmark case *Katz versus US* (1967), which potentially allowed any place (beyond just the home) to be guaranteed the protections against unreasonable search and seizure, as long as a reasonable person recognizes it as such.⁷ The significant advance in interpretation, in which the Court declared the Fourth Amendment “protects people, rather than places” and governs “not only the seizure of tangible items”, opens the net of protections to our activities and data online.⁸

Several recent cases have continued to redefine the right to our information collected through electronic devices. In *US versus Jones* (2012), the Court unanimously ruled that the warrantless use of a GPS tracker on a suspect’s vehicle was an unconstitutional search, because it constituted a trespass onto personal property. Justice Sotomayor, in her concurrence, discussed the idea of a “subjective expectation of privacy” that expands Fourth Amendment protections from simple physical intrusion to current surveillance methods.⁹ Another relatively new area of technology is drones whose surveillance capabilities pose great privacy concerns. Although never directly addressed by the Supreme Court, cases with similar technology involving an airplane and helicopter were decided in *California versus Ciraolo* (1986) and *Florida versus Riley* (1988). In both cases, the Court held that no reasonable expectation of privacy exists in “public, navigable airspace” as long as the surveillance was “nonintrusive”, since the incriminating images in both cases were captured without the aid of special technology.¹⁰

Regarding cell phones and the information stored in them, the Court, in a unanimous decision *Riley versus California* (2014), held that warrantless cell

phone search and seizure during an arrest was unconstitutional, because cell phone can not be used as a weapon or aid escape, thus posing no risk to the officer or evidence destruction.¹¹ In a close decision for *Carpenter versus US* (2018), the Court held that warrantless collection of cell site location records violated the Fourth Amendment, especially considering the revealing nature of location history.¹² Moreover, because location records are not given up voluntarily, the third party doctrine from *Miller* becomes even more obsolete in the digital age.

As a high school student, I have a lower expectation of privacy at school. In the landmark case *New Jersey versus TLO* (1985), the Court held that schools only need “reasonable suspicion” to search and seize students or their property, because schools are in loco parentis and hold an important interest of maintaining a safe learning environment for students.¹³ At Arcadia High School, surveillance cameras are in the hallways, search histories on laptops are reviewed for potential dangerous activity, and authorities like the Dean can search my backpack for suspicious material. This lowered expectation of privacy on school grounds is an example of the constant tension between the right to privacy and public security. However, it is important to recognize the various warrant exceptions that attempt to balance the two polarizing forces. For example, during exigent circumstances or when incriminating evidence is in plain view, the warrant requirement to search and seize does not hold.¹⁴ These exceptions allow police to do their jobs practically, while also avoiding unreasonable searches and seizures.

Today, the idea that “each man’s home is his castle” stands. Instead of fortified by guards and moats, however, smart homes of the future may use smart locks, cameras, and central control of daily activities from a personal assistant like Google Home.¹⁵ With increasing access into my daily activities, this growing ecosystem of data tells the stories of my life. But the Fourth Amendment protects that data from warrantless search and seizure. In fact, perhaps the vast archive of data produced in the digital age only strengthens and expands the protections of the Fourth Amendment. After all, it is only with strict adherence to the fundamental principles of privacy, coupled with the flexibility to match current contexts, do we ensure the lasting effect of the Fourth Amendment.

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- ¹“Desktop/Laptop Ownership among U.S. Adults 2008-2018 | Statistic.” *Statista*, 2019. www.statista.com/statistics/756054/united-states-adults-desktop-laptop-ownership/.
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- ⁶United States v. Miller, 425 U.S. 435 (1976).
- ⁷Katz v. United States, 389 U.S. 347 (1967)
- ⁸Id.
- ⁹United States v. Jones, 565 U.S. 400 (2012).
- ¹⁰California v. Ciraolo, 476 U.S. 207 (1986).
Florida v. Riley, 488 U.S. 445 (1989).
- ¹¹Riley v. California, 573 U.S. ____ (2014).
- ¹²Carpenter v. United States, 585 U.S. ____ (2018).
- ¹³New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
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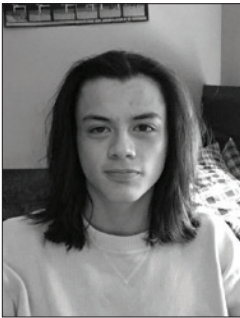
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WINNING VIDEO CONTEST ENTRIES

Winning video entries can be viewed by visiting the 2019 Civics Contest website: <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>



MATTHEW LOVERING, COLTON MASSIC AND JASON MUELLER SPARKS, NEVADA



Matthew Lovering is a recent graduate of Spanish Springs High School in Sparks, Nevada, where he took video production class for four consecutive years. His teacher assigned the video portion of the civics contest to their team as one of their projects. Matthew will be majoring in film production this year at the College of San Mateo in California with one of his teammates and film partner, Jason Mueller. Matthew is constantly looking to gain experience to improve his video production skills.

Video production is not only the career he wants to get in to, but it's also a very fun hobby he enjoys and love to play around with. Matthew is beyond happy to have won the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest in his state!



Colton Massic lives in Sparks, Nevada. He is a recent graduate of Spanish Springs High School. He heard about the video contest through his wonderful video production class teacher, Mr. Bowers. Colton will be attending the University of Colorado, Boulder, in the fall and will be majoring in physics. He is not entirely sure where his studies will take him, but he currently has his eyes set on research in astrophysics.



Jason Mueller is a recent graduate of Spanish Springs High School. Jason loves video production and making movies, and being behind the camera is his favorite hobby. In August, Jason, along with his teammate and film partner, Matthew Lovering, will be attending the College of San Mateo, in California, where they will study film production to get a better grasp of the industry.



RAVEENA LELE

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

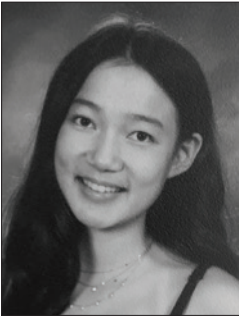


Raveena Lele just completed her sophomore year at Castilleja School in Palo Alto, California. Outside of school, Raveena enjoys playing softball since she was 5 years old. She is currently playing for a 16U travel team called the Nor Cal Blast. Raveena has dedicated a lot of her time to softball, making some of her best memories playing the sport. She has been considering playing softball at the collegiate level. When not geared up for softball, Raveena loves to help coach younger teams, give lessons, and umpire

10U and 12U games. Raveena also loves music and made up a band with her friends in middle school. One thing that really interests her is social justice. She became more interested after taking American political system course that taught her about the rights that protect the American people and what happens when those rights are violated. Raveena hopes to live in Washington, D.C., one day and become a defense attorney. To get ahead on achieving her goal, Raveena is currently interning at a nonprofit organization called De-Bug which works to provide a platform to advocate for social reform. She hopes to learn a lot about the criminal justice system and learn how people's rights are protected in her own community.



JESSICA CHOU, MAXWELL TONG AND AARON WU ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA



Jessica Chou is a recent graduate of Arcadia High School in Arcadia, California. This past year, she enjoyed learning about the Bill of Rights as part of her school's Constitution Team Unit 5 which competed in We the People, a program that promotes civics education in schools through simulated congressional hearings. In her free time, Jessica loves reading the news, painting, watching movies, taking photographs and traveling. She will be attending the University of California, Berkeley, in the fall and will major in architecture. Jessica loves both the sciences and arts equally, and hopes to combine the two through smart and sustainable design as a means to improve lives.



Maxwell Tong, 18, is a recent graduate of Arcadia High School. While in high school, Maxwell participated on his school's Constitution Team which focused on the Bill of Rights, specifically the 1st, 4th, and 8th Amendments. He was also very involved in speech and debate and French club. Maxwell's extracurricular involvement reflects his favorite subjects in high school – U.S. history, English, and French. In his free time, Maxwell enjoys traveling with his family, obsessing over

Harry Potter and watching old Hollywood movies. This fall, he will be attending the University of California, Santa Barbara, to double major in film and international relations.



Aaron Wu is a recent graduate of Arcadia High School in Arcadia, California. As a high school student, Aaron participated in the We the People program (an academic team about civics and politics), student government, percussion ensemble, digital communications internship program, and various clubs. In the fall, Aaron will be attending the University of California, Berkeley, as a political science or political economy major, and ultimately hope to work in public interest, international, or

antitrust law. Besides being interested in the social sciences, Aaron enjoys portrait and film photography, playing with his dog, playing the piano and guitar, and volunteering in his community.



EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON WINNERS

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. Winners of the essay and video competition went on to compete in the circuit-wide final judging.

ESSAY WINNERS

Kody Richards
Sophomore
Wenatchee High School,
Wenatchee

Sonia Fereidooni
Senior
Pullman High School,
Pullman

VIDEO WINNER

Katarina Kenlein
Sophomore
Lewis and Clark High School,
Spokane

OTHER ESSAY & VIDEO CONTEST FINALISTS

District of Alaska

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, which awarded prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 to the top three finishers.

Essay finalists are Olivia Tafs, Natalie Fraser and Jessica Yang, who are juniors from West High School in Anchorage.

The video finalist is Scott Santaella, who is a senior at West High School.

District of Arizona

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, which offered prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 to the top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions.

Essay finalists are Kellen Vu, a senior at Arizona School for the Arts in Phoenix; Alexander Rotaru, a senior at Dobson Montessori in Mesa; and Hannah Shin, a freshman at BASIS Oro Valley in Tucson.

Video finalists are the team of Aubrey Huber and Cynthia Lopez, who are homeschooled students from Sahuarita with grade level equivalent to a sophomore; the team of Anthony Fishback and Colter Pauley, juniors at City High School in Tucson; and the team of Marlee Stephens, Chinle Reinshagen and Gabrielle Neilson, sophomores at Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy in Flagstaff.

Central District of California

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Central District of California, which offered prizes of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 to the top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions.

Essay finalists are Aaron Wu, a senior; Jessica Chou, a senior; and Elle Yokota, a junior, who are all from Arcadia High School in Arcadia.

Video finalists are the team of Michael Huang and Tanya Chen, seniors at Arcadia High School; the team of Aaron Wu, Jessica Chou and Maxwell

Tong, seniors at Arcadia High School; and the team of Joseph Pimentel, Marc Carrillo and Yasmin Pineda, seniors at Rubidoux High School in Riverside.

Eastern District of California

Eastern District of California winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

Essay finalists are Azeeta Bance, Katie Han, and Sarah Hoyle, who are juniors at Benicia High School in Benicia.

There are no video winners.

Northern District of California

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California and the Northern California Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. The district offered cash awards to the top finishers in both the essay and video competitions.

Essay finalists are Jayde Meng, a senior at Los Altos High School in Los Altos; Hannah Middler, a sophomore at Castilleja School in Palo Alto; and Priyanka Shingwekar, a senior at Irvington High School in Fremont.

The video finalist is Raveena Lele, who is a sophomore at Castilleja School.

Southern District of California

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. The district offered prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 to the top finishers in the competition.

Essay finalists are Cyrus Parson, a junior at The Learning Choice Academy in San Diego; Annaclare Spletstoeszer, a senior at The Cambridge School in San Diego; and Danielle Amir-Lobel, a junior at La Jolla Country Day School in La Jolla.

Video finalists are the team of D'Angelo Namou and Julian Jajo, who are seniors at Valhalla High School in El Cajon.

District of Guam

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Guam. The district offered prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 to the top finishers in the competition.

Essay finalists are Jenny Mann and Seyoung Choung, who are sophomores at St. Johns School in Tumon; and Amber Babin, a senior at the Academy of Our Lady of Guam in Hagatna.

Video finalists are Isaiah Sutberry, a sophomore; Joshua Zink, a sophomore; and Hannah Sambrano, a junior, who are all from Guam High School in Hagatna.

District of Hawaii

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii. The district offered prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 to the top finishers in the competition.

Essay finalists are Trinity Myers, a senior at Iolani School in Honolulu; and Elise Kuwaye and Caden Kunimura, seniors at Kaimuki Christian School in Honolulu.

Video finalists are the team of Cassandra Carlyle and Akiko Iwata, who are juniors at Iolani.

District of Idaho

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho. The district offered prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 to the top finishers in the competition.

Essay finalists are Maxwell Jewell and James Giffen, freshmen at East Junior High School in Boise, and Jacob Mickelsen, a senior at Rigby High School in Rigby.

The video finalist is Liam Neupert, who is a sophomore at One Stone in Boise.

District of Montana

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana. The district offered prizes of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 to the top finishers in the competition.

Essay finalists are Michael McKay, a senior at Corvallis High School in Corvallis; Zach Mangels, a junior at Skyview High School in Billings; and Nick Spinetta, a senior at Corvallis.

Video finalists are the team of Hannah Anderson and Morgan Paju of Glasgow High School in Glasgow; Connor Schnabel, a senior at Fort Benton High School in Fort Benton; and Landon Pfile, also a senior at Fort Benton.

District of Nevada

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada. The district offered prizes of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 to the top finishers in the competition.

Essay finalists are Ashlie Kemer, a senior at Veterans Tribute Center and Technical Academy in Las Vegas; Natalie Hsiao, a senior at Southwest Career and Technical Academy in Las Vegas; Ananya Dewan, a senior at Northwest Career and Technical Academy in Las Vegas.

Video finalists are the team of Matthew Lovering, Jason Mueller and Colton Massic, seniors at Spanish Springs High School in Sparks; the team of Alice Lim and Ethan Sax, seniors at Southwestern Career; and the team of Abigail MacDiarmid and Victoria Rivas, juniors at Spanish Springs.

District of Northern Mariana Islands

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Northern Mariana Islands.

Essay finalists are You Sun Lee, a junior at Saipan International School in Saipan; Matt Jason Moran, a senior at Mount Carmel School in Saipan; and Bom Lee, a junior at Mount Carmel.

Video finalists are the team of Chenille Anne Geronimo, Marjorie Joy Agana and Nikka Nate, sophomores at Saipan Southern High School in Saipan; and the team of Roma Malasarte, Rainalyn Reyes and Eddawn Labador, sophomores at Saipan Southern.

District of Oregon

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. Cash awards were offered to the top finishers, who were invited to an award presentation at the Federal Bar Association Oregon Chapter's Annual Dinner.

Essay finalists are Olivia Caudell, a senior at West Salem High School in Salem; Rohan Menon, a junior at Westview High School in Portland; and Caleb Goodrich, a senior at West Salem.

Video finalists are the team of Jeff Muggleston, Tycho LeGrue and Jacob Burris, juniors at Willamette High School in Eugene.

Western District of Washington

Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, which offered prizes of \$500, \$350 and \$250 to the top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions.

Essay finalists are Jasper Chen, a junior at Roosevelt High School in Seattle; Jaquelin Nordhoff, a senior at The Overlake School in Redmond; and Benjamin Kitchen, a sophomore at The Downtown School in Seattle.

The video finalist is Liam Rebol, who is a sophomore at Bothell High School in Bothell.

2019 CIVICS CONTEST JUDGES

Essay Winner Selection:

Bev A. Benka, Bankruptcy Court Clerk, Eastern District of Washington
Bankruptcy Judge Roger L. Efremsky, Northern District of California
Tracy M. Morris, Esq., Western District of Washington
Circuit Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen, Pasadena, California
Martha Sheehy, Esq., District of Montana

Video Winner Selection:

Circuit Judge Morgan Christen, Anchorage, Alaska
Deb Kristensen Grasham, Esq., District of Idaho
District Judge John A. Kronstadt, Central District of California
Robyn Lipsky, Executive Director, Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society
Marc Theriault, Deputy Circuit Executive, Ninth Circuit Office of the
Circuit Executive

Preliminary Judging of Essay and Video Entries:

Sandy Andrews, Denise Asper, Alex Clausen, Emily Donnellan, Rollins
Emerson, Kristine Fox, Daniella Garcia, Kimberly Goodnight, Samuel
Guerard, Jennifer Halai, Jamey Harris, Julie Horst, Stella Huynh, Nick
Jackson, Paul Keller, Rob Leung, Betty Lim, Katy Milton, Emily Newman,
Blair Perilman, George Perrault, Valerie Railey, Michelle Saflor-Asis,
Chandan Toor and Ruth Tronnes

We offer our special thanks to the judges, attorneys, court staff and educators from throughout the Ninth Circuit who contributed to the success of the civics contest.



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