



# 2024 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST



Cash Prizes!



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70 Years Later—  
The Legacy of

**BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

† Plus! Travel and accommodations to attend the 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.  
\* May be subject to federal, state or local taxes unless exemptions apply.



An essay and video contest for high school students in the western United States, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands. Contest rules and entry instructions available at: <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>

Entries accepted beginning January 8, 2024. **Deadline for entries is March 8, 2024.** Sponsored by the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit.

# 2024 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST

## Essay and Video Contest Prompt

### 70 Years Later—



## The Legacy of **Brown v. Board of Education**

2024 marks the 70th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's 1954 landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education. In Brown, a unanimous Supreme Court held that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine that it had adopted in Plessy v. Ferguson, an 1896 case that addressed whether states could legally require railroad companies to provide equal but separate accommodations for passengers of different races.

Brown v. Board of Education is widely accepted as one of the most momentous Supreme Court decisions, but views differ regarding what impact it has had on the law and our society.

**In addressing this topic, discuss what impact you think Brown has had and why.** The following are some examples of questions that you could consider in thinking about these issues:

- Did Brown influence changes in the law, or in society, beyond the decision in that case, or were any changes that happened after Brown inevitable?
- Did Brown affect the way that Americans view the Supreme Court, or affect how Supreme Court conducts itself?
- Should the Supreme Court consider how its decision on a particular subject impacts society, or how the decision is viewed by the public?

The 2024 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is open to high school students in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions. Students from public, private, parochial and charter schools as well as homeschooled students of equivalent grade status may enter.



The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington will conduct preliminary judging for this contest. The top three local contest winners in the essay and video competitions will receive prizes of \$1,000 for 1st place, \$750 for 2nd place, and \$500 for 3rd place.

Honorable Mention certificates will be awarded to the three next best essays and videos. The top three finalists who placed in the local competition will go on to compete in the Ninth Circuit contest. All winners and honorable mention

recipients will be invited to a reception at the courthouse in their honor. To be eligible to compete in the local contest, students must reside in one of these counties: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, or Whatcom. For more information about the local contest, please contact:  
**Johanna Moody-Gatlin – (206) 370-8852 / Johanna\_Moody@wawd.uscourts.gov** or  
**Tracy M. Morris, Executive Director, Federal Civil Rights Legal Clinic, Federal Bar Association, Western District of Washington – (206) 992-7594 / tracymorris@comcast.net.**

Cover image collage: original graphics with photograph of Nettie Hunt, sitting on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court building, explaining the significance of the court's May 17, 1954, desegregation ruling to her daughter, Nikie. Photo by UPI Tele/Files, New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Collection, Prints and Photographs Division ([Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov)).