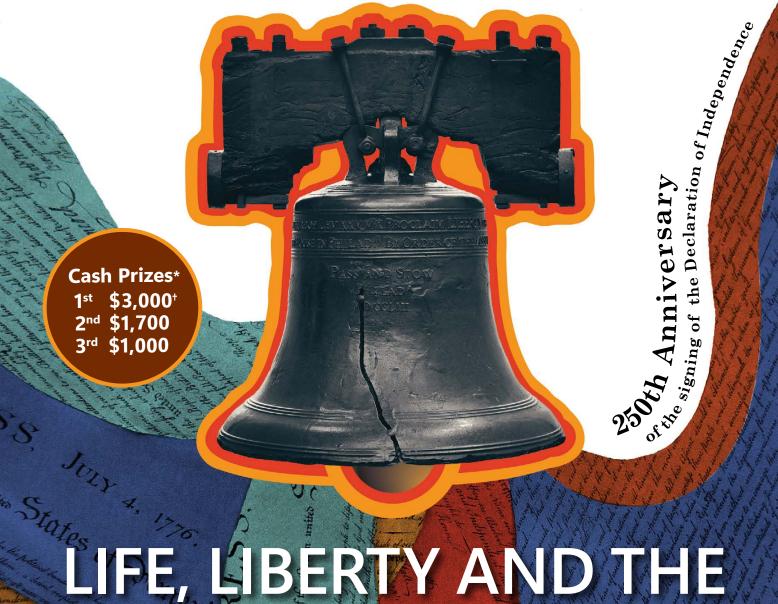
2026 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST



LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Your Voice. Your Story. Your America.



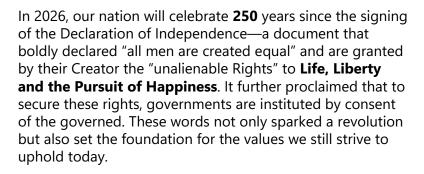
An essay and video contest for high school students in the western United States, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands. Contest rules and entry instructions will be available at: https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest

Entries accepted beginning **January 7, 2026**. Deadline for entries is **March 6, 2026**. Sponsored by the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit.

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT

OF HAPPINESS

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Which of these rights sparks your interest to reflect on its meaning and impact?

The Ninth Circuit Civics Contest prompt challenges you to choose one of these enduring rights—Life, Liberty or the Pursuit of Happiness—and tell us: (i) why this right was essential in 1776, (ii) how this right impacts you, your family or your community today; and (iii) what should we do to protect or improve this right moving forward?

The 2026 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is open to all students, grades 9-12, in public, private, parochial or charter schools, and homeschooled students of equivalent grade status in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions.

Contest rules will be available at https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest. Essay and video entries can be submitted on the website starting Jan. 7, 2026. Deadline to submit entries is 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 6, 2026.

The contest is organized by the Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach ("PICO") Committee. For more information contact the Ninth Circuit Office of the Circuit Executive at civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov.





Central District of California Local Contest: The United States District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Central District of California will conduct a local contest to select finalists for the circuit-wide competition. To enter the local contest, students must reside in one of the following counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Ventura. Winners of the local contest will also receive cash prizes of \$1,000 for 1st place, \$750 for 2nd place and \$500 for 3rd place. The 1st-place winners of the local contest and a parent/guardian will be invited to the 2026 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. For more information about the district contest, please contact: Johanne Remy – (213) 894-6096 / johanne_remy@cacb.uscourts.gov or Pamela Gamble Jackson – (213) 894-5708 / SpecialPrograms@cacd.uscourts.gov.

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