



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Civics Contest Finalists Announced

SAN FRANCISCO – Preliminary judging has been completed in the 2016 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest for high school students in the western United States, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. All told, more than 700 young people entered the contest, which offers cash prizes and a chance to meet some of the nation’s preeminent jurists and legal practitioners.

The contest focused on the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Miranda v. Arizona. The 1966 ruling requires that persons in the custody of law enforcement officers be informed prior to questioning of their constitutional rights to remain silent and to have an attorney present during interrogation. Students were challenged to write an essay or produce a short video on the topic. Teams of up to three students were allowed for video production.

Many of the 15 federal courts in the Ninth Circuit held local contests with winners advancing in the circuit-level competition. In all, 35 essays and 26 videos were selected for final consideration by the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee, which will announce the winners on June 1. The winning essay will be read and video shown on July 11 during the opening session of the 2016 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Montana.

At the circuit level, prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners in both the writing and video competition. In addition, first-place winners along with a parent/guardian will be invited to attend the circuit conference, a major gathering of the federal bench and bar in the western states. Prize money and travel costs are funded through attorney admission fees collected by the courts to fund educational programs for the bar and community.

“We are very pleased to have had so many students from so many different places in the circuit participate in the contest. They are all winners in our book,” said U.S. District Judge Janis L. Sammartino of San Diego, who chairs the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee.

Names of finalists who advanced at the circuit level are listed by district below.

The Ninth Circuit takes in the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Oregon, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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District of Alaska – Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, which offered prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200 to the top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions. The winners are:

Essay: 1st, Anessa Feero, junior, West Anchorage High School; 2nd, McKinley Brock, senior, Wasilla Lake Christian School; and 3rd, Seth Machakos, sophomore, Juneau-Douglas High School.

Video: 1st (tie) the team of Ezra Geselle and Marlena Romanoff and the team of Andyn Mulgrew-Truitt, Morgan Balovich and Jacob Munce; 3rd, the team of Theo Houck and Isabella Bugayong. All are sophomores at Juneau Douglas 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 \$500, \$300 and \$200 to the top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions. The winners are:

Essay: 1st, Geneva Saupe, junior, BASIS Tucson North Charter School; Caroline Frieders, senior, Walden Grove High School in Sahuarita; 3rd, Zhengdong Wang, junior, Hamilton High School in Chandler.

Video: 1st, Daniel Considine, sophomore, San Pedro Valley High School in Benson; 2nd, Bailey Bernal, senior, Perry High School in Gilbert; 3rd, the team of Jonathan Pacheco, Connor Allred and Alejandro Pino, seniors, Skyline High School in Mesa.

Central District of California – Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, which offered prizes of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 to the top finishers in the essay competition and a trip to Montana for the first place winner. The winners are:

Essay: 1st, Daniela Mirell, junior, Harvard-Westlake School in Studio City; 2nd, Serena Davis, junior, Harvard-Westlake School; 3rd, Emily Ramirez, sophomore, Royal High School in Simi Valley.

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

Essay: 1st, Austin Ibarra, senior, Jesse M. Bethel High School in Vallejo; 2nd, Jelena Mae Tating, senior, Jesse M. Bethel High School; 3rd, Pilar Rabago, junior, Aspire Alexander Twilight Secondary Academy in Sacramento.

Video: 1st, Alexander Antonucci, junior, Lassen High School in Susanville. (No 2nd, 3rd)

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. The winners are:

Essay: 1st, Emily Luong, junior, Evergreen Valley High School in San Jose; Joseph Rumelhart, sophomore, Palo Alto Senior High School in Palo Alto; 3rd, Shreyas Iyer, junior, Lynbrook High School in San Jose.

Video: 1st, Sandra Duenas, junior, Richmond High School in Richmond; 2nd, Arling Apaez, Richmond High School; 3rd, Mariela Gandara, senior, Ruth Asawa School of the Arts in San Francisco.

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, which offered prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 to the top finishers in both the essay and video competitions. The winners are:

Essay: 1st, Jerod Sun, junior, La Jolla County Day School in La Jolla; 2nd, Emi Zeger, senior, University City High School in San Diego; 3rd, Gabriel Mateus, senior, Hilltop High School in Chula Vista.

Video: 1st, the team of Nahum Erigo, Adrian Maldonado and Jordan Eddings, seniors, San Diego High School in San Diego; 2nd, the team of Ryan Tompkins, Victoria Fernandez and Kalalaelisa Toomalatai, seniors, Otay Ranch High School in Chula Vista; 3rd, the team of Paulina Aguilar, Paola Rubio and Alex Rios, seniors, Otay Ranch High School.

District of Guam – Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Guam, which offered prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 to the top finishers in both the essay and video competitions. The winners are:

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Essay: 1st, Jeri Raizel Yu, sophomore, St. John's School in Tumon; 2nd, Anne Wen, sophomore, St. John's School; 3rd, Marie Ellenor Bagana, senior, Academy of Our Lady of Guam in Hagatna.

Video: 1st, Ivan Skvaril, sophomore, St. John's School in Tumon; 2nd, Avery Fernandez, junior, Guam High School in Agana; 3rd, the team of Renee Julia Blancaflor, Mikaela Agtay and Mary Elizabeth Auxilian, seniors, Academy of Our Lady of Guam in Hagatna.

District of Hawaii – Finalists are essay writer Jenaiah Kamoku-Santos, a junior at Aiea High School in Aiea, and the video team of senior Tomomi Suzuki and juniors Brian Lu and Andrew Yu from William McKinley High School in Honolulu.

District of Idaho – Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho, which offered prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 to top finishers in both the essay and video competitions. The winners are:

Essay: 1st, Miles Maxcer, senior, Moscow High School in Moscow; 2nd, Andrea Marotz, junior, Rigby High School in Rigby; 3rd, Michael Lejardi, senior, Homedale High School in Homedale.

District of Montana – Finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, which offered prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 to the top finishers in both the essay and video competitions. The winners are:

Essay: 1st, Kaitlynn Lindbo, senior, Capital High School in Helena; 2nd, Trevor Canty, senior, Billings West High School in Billings; 3rd, Andrew Driscoll, senior, Billings Senior High School in Billings.

Video: 1st, the team of Jordan Christian and Patrick Brennan, seniors, C.M. Russell High School in Great Falls; 2nd, Andrew Driscoll, senior, Billings Senior High School in Billings; 3rd, Jamie Steers, senior, Fort Benton High School in 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 winners are:

Essay: 1st, Megan Flanagan; 2nd, Hannah Morris; 3rd, Sanae Ishjima. All are seniors at the Las Vegas Academy of the Performing Arts in Las Vegas.

Video: 1st, Joseph Trierweiler, sophomore, West Career and Technical Academy in Las Vegas;

Gavin Garcia, junior, Canyon Springs High School in North Las Vegas; 3rd, the team of Aldo Parra and Paloma Martinez, both juniors, from Canyon Springs High School.

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

Essay: 1st, Terrence Blanca, senior, Saipan Southern High School' 2nd, Gio Hur, sophomore, Saipan International School; 3rd, Mary Grace Tiglao, senior, Marianas High School.

Eastern District of Washington – Finalists are essay writers Justice Iseminger, a senior North Central High School in Spokane and Peyton Ugolini, a senior at University High School in Spokane Valley.

Western District of Washington – Finalists are video producers Han Eckelberg, a junior at Cleveland High School in Seattle and the team of Meili Acker and Nelda Angulo of Cascade High School in Everett.

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