



Public Information Office  
**United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Civics Contest Focuses on the Equal Protection Clause and Public Education**

SAN FRANCISCO – The 2018 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest offers high school students in the western United States and Pacific islands a chance to win cash prizes while learning how the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution has helped shape their education.

The theme of the contest is “The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment 150 Years After Ratification: What Does Equal Protection Mean to Students?” Ratified on July 9, 1868, the 14th Amendment provides, in part, that no state can “deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” The contest challenges students to write an essay or produce a video focusing on how Congress and the federal courts have applied the Equal Protection Clause to their educational opportunities.

The contest is open to young people in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, along with the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial schools or home-schooled students of equivalent grade status may enter.

The contest is cosponsored by the Courts and Community Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and the federal courts in the 15 judicial districts that make up the circuit. A total of \$7,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. The top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions will receive \$2,000 for 1st place, \$1,000 for 2nd place and \$500 for 3rd place. The 1st-place winners along with a parent or guardian also will be invited to the 2018 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Anaheim, California.

Many students also have a chance to win cash prizes in local competitions being sponsored by the individual judicial districts to select finalists for the circuit-wide contest.

**Contest rules and other information are available now from the contest website:**

<http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>. Entries will be accepted beginning February 1, 2018. The deadline for entries will be April 1, 2018. Finalists will be announced in May and the winners in June.

For more information about the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, please contact the Ninth Circuit Office of the Circuit Executive, (415) 355-8973 / [civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov).

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