



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov

NEWS RELEASE

January 15, 2025

Contact: Katherine Rodriguez
mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov

2025 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest Open for Entries

SAN FRANCISCO –The Ninth Circuit is pleased to announce that the 2025 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is accepting essay and video entries. The contest is now in its 10th year as a circuit wide contest open to high school students who reside within the [geographic boundaries](#) of the Ninth Circuit.

“**When Duty Calls: Why Exercising the Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship is Important to Me**” is the theme of the 2025 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, which is an annual essay and video competition open to students in grades 9-12 in public, private, parochial, charter schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status. Children and relatives of federal court employees are not eligible to participate.

Students will have an opportunity to win cash prizes while conducting their research to learn about the rights and responsibilities of being a U.S. citizen. Students can submit an essay of 500-1,000 words or a 3-5 minute video or both. Complete contest rules are available on the civics contest website at <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>. A student does not have to be a U.S. citizen to be eligible to enter the contest.

Essay and video winners at the **circuit level** will share \$11,400 in total cash prizes—\$3,000 for first place, \$1,700 for second place and \$1,000 for third place. In addition, **circuit level** first-place winners will be invited to attend the 2025 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, where they will be recognized for their accomplishments and also participate in a special panel discussion with members the Ninth Circuit’s Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to compete for cash prizes in local civics contests sponsored by Ninth Circuit federal courts within each district which will select their winners who will compete as finalists at the circuit level.

The contest is sponsored by the PICO Committee, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the federal courts that comprise the Ninth Circuit.

Essay and/or video entries can be submitted online at <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>. Deadline to submit entries is Friday, March 7, 2025, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time. Finalists will be announced in May and the winners in June.

###