



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY – ESSEX VICINAGE

2024 LAW DAY

COURT SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

NOTICE:

Registration is required to participate. Students registering individually must obtain parent or guardian permission. Submissions must be based on the 2024 Law Day theme and comply with the applicable contest rules and deadlines.

“Voices of Democracy”

Theme:

“The 2024 Law Day theme “Voices of Democracy” recognizes that in democracies, the people rule. For nearly 250 years, Americans have expressed their political views and wishes by speaking their minds and voting in elections. In 2024, the United States will hold its 60th presidential election, and Americans will address fundamental questions about democracy and the rule of law.

The Voices of Democracy Law Day theme encourages Americans to participate in the 2024 elections by deepening their understanding of the electoral process; discussing issues in honest and civil ways; turning out to vote; and, finally, helping to move the country forward after free and fair elections. In this way, Americans ensure that our government remains responsive to the wishes of the people. We invite all Americans to join us on May 1, 2024, to celebrate Law Day by lifting their voices to strengthen our democracy.”

The above information was retrieved from the American Bar Association website [Law Day \(americanbar.org\)](https://www.americanbar.org).

Art Contest:

This contest is open to Essex County students **in grades K-12**. Submissions may include artistic renditions that relate to the Law Day theme. This includes mixed media of magazine, newspaper, fabric, paint, marker, pencil or computer-generated images and sculpted art. Contest rules and registration forms are available online. Submissions will be accepted between March 1 to March 15, 2024. For additional information, please visit the [Art Contest Rules](#) page.

Writing Contest:

This contest is open to Essex County **middle and high school** students. Submissions may be in the form of an essay or poem. Contest rules and registration forms are available online. Writing submissions should be formatted as a MS Word document or copy and pasted in the body of an email, then emailed to EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov between March 1 to March 15, 2024. For additional information, please visit the [Writing Contest Rules](#) page.

Video Contest:

This contest is open to Essex County students **in grades K-12**. Contest rules and registration forms are available online. Video submissions must be submitted with written lyrics, script or description in a Word document or in the body of an email along with the recording of the performance and emailed to EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov between March 1 to March 15, 2025 (5 minutes maximum for each entry). For additional information, please visit the [Video Contest Rules](#) page.

Mock Trial Program:

Mock Trial Program is open to all Essex County students **in grades 3 through 12**. Students stage a mock trial to resolve a hypothetical dispute outlined in a court prepared fact pattern. This activity develops students’ analytical abilities and self-confidence while furthering an understanding of the content, processes, and roles of courtroom staff as well as the legal system. Mock trials also demonstrate the significance of our constitutional protections and promotes trust in the courts. The Law Day Committee, in partnership with the Office of the Ombudsman and the Essex County Bar Association (ECBA), coordinate the mock trials. Judge4s and members of the ECBA will visit participating schools/groups to assist, mentor and participate in the mock trials. Interested schools and groups must register to participate. All mock trials will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024. To ensure that presenters and attendees have sufficient time to interact with each other, it is recommended that schools/groups allot at least two class periods or 40 minutes to 1 ½ hours to conduct mock trials. **Please note this is not a competition. It is a learning exercise in which the students need to be prepared in advance to participate. Please refer to the Mock Trial Guide for additional information (see link below).**

The mock trial fact patterns will be available online at <https://www.njcourts.gov/essex-law-day>.

Guest Judge Speaker:

Guest Judge Speaker is an alternative program offered to those schools who do not wish to conduct a mock trial and prefer to have a judge meet with the students and discuss a requested topic or the role of the judge and the courts. Presentations will be hosted virtually via the schools preferred virtual platform. Registered schools will be contacted in April 2024 to arrange a date and time. The date will be coordinated based on judges availability in April or May 2024.

Registration:

To participate in any of the 2024 Law Day activities, please visit the Essex Vicinage Law Day website to view contest rules and registration forms at <https://www.njcourts.gov/essex-law-day>. Email any inquiries to Essex Vicinage Office of the Ombudsman at EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov.