

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DISTRICT JUDGES  
Hon. L. Eugene Hunt, Jr.  
Hon. Sam A. Salamey  
Hon. Mark W. Somers

NINETEENTH DISTRICT COURT

16077 MICHIGAN AVENUE  
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN 48126

Eric F. Cyman  
Court Administrator  
(313) 943-2070  
Court Information  
(313) 943-2060

Dear Teacher:

The 19<sup>th</sup> District Court is proud to again partner with the Dearborn Rotary Club to sponsor a citywide essay contest as the high point of Dearborn's annual "Law Day" observance. **This year's theme is The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Transforming American Democracy**

Please see the enclosed entry form for details about the contest, schedule, and generous prizes provided by the Dearborn Rotary Club.

We sincerely hope we can count on you to encourage your students to participate in this thought provoking and rewarding endeavor.

Your assistance in this important matter is greatly appreciated. Please contact court administration at (313) 943-4226 or (313) 943-2070 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sam A. Salamey  
Chief Judge

Mark W. Somers  
Chief Judge Pro Tempore

L. Eugene Hunt  
District Judge

# 19<sup>th</sup> District Court

16077 Michigan Avenue  
Dearborn, Michigan 48126  
(313) 943-4226

Dear Students/Parent(s):

Your 19<sup>th</sup> District Court has long been an active participant in the American Bar Association's National Law Day observance. This year is no different as the Court and the Dearborn Rotary Club unite once again to conduct a citywide student essay contest.

Dearborn Rotary will provide generous prizes for successful participants from the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. First place winners in each of the four grades will be awarded a \$100.00 Barnes and Noble gift card. Runners-up will receive a \$75.00 gift card and third place finishers will receive a \$50.00 gift card. In addition, one honorable mention recipient from each grade will receive a \$20.00 Barnes and Noble gift card.

**The 2017 contest topic is: The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment; Transforming American Democracy.**

All essays must be the original **work of the student**. In order to allow our panel of judges sufficient time to study all entries, we have set **May 11, 2017** as the deadline for submitting essays and completed entry form (see below) to the 19<sup>th</sup> District Court. **Entries must be received at the Court no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 11, 2017.**

All award recipients and their families will be invited to an awards ceremony at our courthouse on **Wednesday, May 24th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** **First place winners will get to read their essay to the audience.** The 19<sup>th</sup> District Court will host refreshments at the conclusion of the program.

Sincerely,

Sam A. Salamey  
Chief Judge

Mark W. Somers  
Chief Judge Pro Tempore

L. Eugene Hunt  
District Judge

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Please detach lower portion

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ (check one please)

I certify that this is the student's original work and grant the 19<sup>th</sup> District Court full permission to reprint.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Parent Signature Telephone Number

**Mail/deliver to: Court Administration, 19<sup>th</sup> District Court, 16077 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48126**

## 2017 LAW DAY Theme

### The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Transforming American Democracy

The 2017 theme provides the opportunity to explore the many ways that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment has reshaped American law and society. Through its Citizenship, Due Process and Equal Protection clauses, this transformative amendment advanced the rights of all Americans. It also played a pivotal role in extending the reach of the Bill of Rights to the states. Ratified during Reconstruction a century and a half ago, the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment serves as the cornerstone for landmark Civil rights legislation, the foundation for numerous federal court decisions protecting fundamental rights, and a source of inspiration for all those who advocate for equal justice under the law.

### ESSAY QUESTION:

Explain the court case of **Brown v. The Board of Education** and how the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment played a pivotal role in the U.S. Supreme Court decision. What does “created equal” mean to you?