



Public Information Office
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NEWS RELEASE

June 5, 2018

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Civics Contest Finalists Announced

SAN FRANCISCO – Preliminary judging has been completed in the 2018 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest for high school students in the western United States, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. All told, over 1,000 young people entered the contest, which offers cash prizes and a chance to meet some of the nation’s preeminent jurists and legal practitioners.

“150 Years after Ratification of the 14th Amendment: What Does Equal Protection Mean to Students?” was the theme of the contest, which focused on key court decisions and legislation related to equal protection and schools. Students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status were challenged to write an essay or produce a short video on the topic.

All of the 15 federal courts in the Ninth Circuit held local contests with winners going on to compete in the circuit-wide competition. In all, 45 essays and 27 videos were selected for final consideration by the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee, which will announce the winners in June. The winning essay will be read and the winning video will be shown on July 23 during the opening session of the 2018 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Anaheim, California, a major gathering of the federal bench and bar in the western states.

Among the finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, which offered prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 to the top three finishers. The winners of the essay competition are: 1st place, Tanner Sprankle, a senior from West Valley High School; 2nd place, Alexander O’Neill, a junior at Holy Rosary Academy; and 3rd place, Savio Le, a junior also at Holy Rosary Academy. There are no winners of the video competition.

Alaska winners go on to the larger Ninth Circuit contest, which offers additional prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 for the top three essays and videos, and a trip to Anaheim, for the first-place winners accompanied by a parent or guardian, to attend the circuit conference.

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

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