

Law Day Essay and Art Competition
Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County
May 1, 2014

The Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County invites all Maricopa County students in 11th and 12th grade students to participate in a competition to celebrate Law Day, 2014. The focus of this year's competition will be the current relevance of the Magna Carta, which will be 800 years old in 2015. Students may participate in either an essay or an art competition, or both.

The Magna Carta was written in the middle of an English field in 1215 by a group of disillusioned barons who were tired of the restraints of the feudal system imposed upon them by the King. The principles set forth in the Magna Carta found their way into English law. When Englishmen left their homeland for the new colonies, they took with them their traditions and their knowledge of the legal precepts set forth in the Magna Carta. This singular document became the basis for the charters of the Massachusetts Bay and Virginia colonies and was revered and emulated in fledgling United States.

The Magna Carta provided the basis for the idea of a higher law, one that could not be altered either by executive mandate or legislative acts. In turn, the Magna Carta established some fundamental concepts of liberty that our founders accepted, refined, and embedded as core principles in our government and in our thinking.

For the essay competition:

- **Questions:** As we reflect on the Magna Carta's 800-year legacy, is the concept of a "higher law" still applicable? How does the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution reflect the ideals set forth in the Magna Carta? What is the relevance of the Supremacy Clause and the Magna Carta in modern America?
- **Specifications:** Please provide your answer in 3-5 pages, one-sided, double spaced, Arial 12 point font. Margins must be at least 1.5 inches on all sides.
- Essays should be submitted in Microsoft Word format.

For the art competition:

- **Concept:** Create an original piece of artwork that depicts how the Supremacy Clause reflects the ideals set forth in the Magna Carta.
- **Specifications:**
 - Medium: Your choice of watercolor, ink, acrylic, oil, goache, pen and pencil, pen or pencil, pastel (or any combination thereof)
 - Size: 9" x 12"
- Entries should be submitted electronically as a jpeg. Do not submit original art. If your entry is selected, we will ask for the original, where it may be displayed at a court location.

Submit Entries to: Entries should be submitted to kvogel@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

Deadline: All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2014.

Judging: Winners will be determined by the Superior Court. All decisions will be final.

Prize: Winners will be awarded a certificate and a copy of Magna Carta: The Foundation of Freedom 1215 - 2015. An award ceremony will be held on Law Day, May 1, 2014 in the Old Courthouse at 125 West Washington Street, Phoenix AZ 85003.