



16th Judicial Circuit | County of Kane
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT K. VILLA
Kane County Judicial Center
37W777 Route 38, Suite 301
St. Charles, IL 60175

February 23, 2026

Dear Kane County High School Guidance Counselors and Student Success Staff,

As Chief Judge of Kane County's 16th Judicial Circuit, I am excited to announce that we will be hosting our 2nd Annual Law Day Essay Contest (500 words or less) beginning **Monday, March 2, 2026**.

What is Law Day? Law Day, sponsored by the American Bar Association, is an annual event held on May 1 celebrating the rule of law and how the legal process protects liberty, promotes justice, and supports the freedoms Americans share. For more information about Law Day and the 2026 theme, "The Rule of Law and the American Dream," visit LawDay.org.

Our Law Day Essay Contest is open to all **Spring 2026 Sophomores and Juniors** attending high schools in Kane County. We are delighted to have this occasion to showcase Kane County student talent. The best submissions will be rewarded with a certificate, a Law Day swag bag, and cash awards generously donated by the **Kane County Bar Foundation**. Cash prizes in the amount of **\$500** for first place and **\$250** dollars for second and third places will be awarded for each of the Sophomore and Junior categories.

Directions for schools:

- The attached contest rules and flyer may be distributed to students beginning **Monday, March 2**.
- All submissions must be sent to Ellen Schmid by email at: SchmidEllen@16thCircuit.IllinoisCourts.gov no later than **4:30 pm on Friday, April 10**.
- Winners will be notified **the week of April 20** via email, and will be publicly awarded, with your permission, at their schools by a Kane County Judge on Law Day, **Friday, May 1**.

If your school would like to participate, or if you have any questions about our Law Day Essay Contest, please contact our office via the information listed below.

We look forward to celebrating Law Day with your students.

Robert K. Villa

Chief Judge Robert K. Villa

For questions concerning the Law Day Essay Contest, please contact:

Ellen Schmid, Judicial Communications Manager
Email: SchmidEllen@16thCircuit.IllinoisCourts.gov
Phone: 630.762.2248
Website: <https://www.illinois16thjudicialcircuit.org>