2025 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST

An essay and video contest for high school students in the western United States, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands. Contest rules and entry instructions available at: **https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest**

Entries accepted beginning **January 8, 2025**. Deadline for entries is **March 7, 2025**. Sponsored by the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit.

† Plus! Travel and accommodations to attend the 2025 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.
* May be subject to federal, state or local taxes unless exemptions apply.

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When Duty Calls:

Why Exercising the Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship is Important to Me

What is the thing you prize the most? The possession you would never give away? Never put someplace you couldn't find it? Maybe you are thinking computer, phone, fancy jewelry, favorite childhood stuffie or something like that.

But how about your rights? As a U.S. citizen, you are guaranteed fundamental rights under the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the United States. Hand in hand with those rights come serious responsibilities to our nation and our society.

The 2025 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest prompt challenges you to dive into the rights and responsibilities of being a U.S. citizen and explore deeply how they affect you and how you can affect them. There is no one correct way to answer the prompt and no specific rights you are expected to highlight. Here are a few questions that may help ignite your investigation. It is up to you to express your thoughts on this civics journey. Dive in!

- Which right or rights are you most excited to exercise when you reach the age of majority—18—or become an adult citizen through naturalization? Why?
- What constitutional rights can you exercise now? Have you exercised any of these, and what has it meant to you? Do you have plans to exercise any others?
- Are there any ways you can influence the exercise of constitutional rights by adults for those rights you cannot yet access yourself? Have you done this, and how?
- Why does the contest pair "rights" with "responsibilities" and state they go hand in hand?

The 2025 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is open to high school students in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions. Students from public, private, parochial and charter schools as well as homeschooled students of equivalent grade status may enter.

The contest is organized by the Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee.

Contest rules available at **http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest**. Both essays and videos can be submitted electronically starting **Jan. 8, 2025**. Deadline for entries is 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time, Friday, **March 7, 2025**.

For more information, contact Katherine Rodriguez at **civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov**.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska is hosting a local contest to determine the finalists who will go on to compete for cash prizes in the circuit contest. To be eligible to compete in the local contest, students must reside in the State of Alaska. Local contest winners in each category also will receive prizes of $1,000 for 1st place, $500 for 2nd place and $250 for 3rd place. For more information about the local contest, please contact: **Stephanie Lawley – (907) 677-6107** / **Stephanie_Lawley@akd.uscourts.gov**.