

**HIDALGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
HIDALGO COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION
And BBVA COMPASS BANK**

Present

LAW DAY 2009

“A Legacy of Liberty – Celebrating Lincoln’s Birthday”

Educators and Parents:

The future of our nation is in the hands of our young people. We all can and should play a role in assuring America’s future by addressing the needs of youth and by focusing on the issues affecting them today. Many young people will come into contact with the legal system, whether through family court, foster care, or the juvenile justice system. In addition, all youth need to understand their rights and responsibilities under the law to become effective participants in our nation’s civic life.

The 2009 Law Day theme prompts us to listen to the voices of young people and consider how the law can better serve their needs and interests. It also encourages us to assure that our youth are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively make their voices heard within our democracy.

The Hidalgo County Bar Association, the Hidalgo County Bar Foundation, and BBVA Compass Bank conduct three scholarship contests each year in conjunction with Law Day. This year’s theme is ***“A Legacy of Liberty – Celebrating Lincoln’s Birthday”***.

Editorial Contest: The Editorial Contest is open to all Hidalgo County high school students, grades 9-12. The editorial must be written in response to the Law Day theme. The student with the winning editorial will be awarded a \$250.00 scholarship. The winning entry will be sent to the State Bar of Texas for competition with the other entries from around the state. At the state competition level, the top three essays will be awarded cash awards as follows: 1st Place - \$1,000.00; 2nd Place - \$500.00; and 3rd Place - \$250.00. The editorial question is:

“What is the Role of Law in Fulfilling the Promises of the Declaration of Independence?”

Photo Contest: The Photo Contest is open to junior high and high school aged students ages 12-18. The student with the winning photo will be awarded a \$150.00 scholarship. The winning entry will be sent to the State Bar of Texas for competition with the other entries from around the state. At the state competition level, the top three photos will be awarded cash awards as follows: 1st Place - \$400.00 and a certificate; 2nd Place - \$200.00 and a certificate; and 3rd Place - \$100.00 and a certificate.

Photographs must be created by the entrant, never have been published in any other medium, and must have been taken after June 1, 2008.

Poster Contest: The Poster Contest is open to all Hidalgo County elementary school students in the 3rd through 5th grades. The student with the winning poster will be awarded a \$100.00 scholarship. The winning entry will be sent to the State Bar of Texas for competition with the other entries from around the state. At the state competition level, the top three posters will be awarded cash awards as follows: 1st Place - \$150.00 cash and a \$50.00 gift certificate; 2nd Place - \$75.00 cash and a \$25.00 gift certificate; and 3rd Place - \$50.00, and a \$10.00 gift certificate.

The poster must be the student's interpretation of the Law Day theme and must be the student's original work.

The deadline for all entries is March 20, 2009. Winners will be notified by phone and/or e-mail.

The Hidalgo County Bar Association and the Hidalgo County Bar Foundation appreciate your participation. If you or your students/children should have any questions, please feel free to e-mail the Executive Director, Jeri Worthington, at jeri@hidalgobar.org, or, you can call the HCBA and HCBF office at 956-380-1691.

**HIDALGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, HIDALGO COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION, And
STATE BAR OF TEXAS 2009 LAW DAY AWARDS**

COMPETITION ENTRY & RELEASE FORM

NAME: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.: _____

GRADE: _____ **DATE OF BIRTH:** _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE NO: _____ **ALT. HOME PHONE NO.** _____

FAX NO.: _____ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** _____

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____

CHECK ALL APPROPRIATE CONTESTS BELOW THAT YOU ARE ENTERING:

_____ *EDITORIAL* _____ *POSTER* _____ *PHOTO*

TITLE OF EDITORIAL ENTRY: _____

TITLE OF POSTER ENTRY: _____

POSTER SUMMARY (describe what the poster depicts, its meaning, actions and if any characters/persons are included) _____

TITLE OF PHOTO ENTRY: _____

PHOTO SUMMARY (describe what the photo depicts, when it was taken, where and why)

DATE

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

**SIGNATURE OF SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**

2009 LAW DAY CELEBRATION RULES & GUIDELINES

THEME: *“A Legacy of Liberty – Celebrating Lincoln’s Birthday”*

EDITORIAL CONTEST: *(limited to high school students, grades 9-12)*

1. The editorial must be written in response to the Law Day theme. The editorial question is:
“What is the Role of Law in Fulfilling the Promises of the Declaration of Independence?”
2. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the entrant’s responsibility. Entrants must agree to allow the State Bar of Texas to reproduce entries in any medium without restriction.
3. The editorial must accompany the entry form.
4. the editorial must be no longer than 500 words.
5. the editorial must be typewritten, double-spaced.
6. The submitted work must be the student’s own, original work.
7. the editorial must show critical analysis and historical evidence.
8. Please provide an electronic version of the entry.
9. Only one student participant per entry.

POSTER CONTEST: *(limited to elementary 3rd through 5th grade students)*

1. Must be created by Hidalgo County elementary students in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades.
2. One entry per student will be accepted.
3. Must be the student’s interpretation of the Law Day theme.
4. Must be the student’s original work.
5. Poster must accompany the entry form.
6. The poster must be a two dimensional drawing, painting or collage – not computer generated.
7. Posters larger than 25 x 32 inches are not eligible.

PHOTO CONTEST: *(limited to middle school and high school students)*

1. Photo contest will be for Hidalgo County junior high & high school students between the ages of 12-18.
2. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the entrant’s responsibility. Entrants must own all rights to reproduce entries in any medium without restriction.
3. Photographs must be created by the entrant, never have been published in any other medium, and must have been taken after June 1, 2008.
4. Only one entry is allowed per entrant.
5. By entering, the entrant gives the Hidalgo County Bar Association, Hidalgo County Bar Foundation, State Bar of Texas, Hidalgo County Young Lawyer’s Association and the Texas Young Lawyer’s Association the right to reproduce any photograph(s) submitted in any medium without time, use, or territorial limitation, as long as such is for non-commercial purposes.
6. The State Bar of Texas, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Hidalgo County Bar Association and Hidalgo County Bar Foundation bear no responsibility for lost or damaged entries.
7. Entries will not be returned.
8. Mutilated photographs will not be considered.
9. All submitted local bar entries will become the property of the SBOT.
10. On the back of the photo submitted, a typewritten label must appear with the: name of the local bar (Hidalgo County Bar Association), the entrant’s signature, the entrant’s parent/guardian’s signature, and the title of the photo.
11. Black and white or color photos must be no larger than 8 ½” by 11”.

ENTRY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009

Mail Entries to:

**HIDALGO COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION * 2009 LAW DAY SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE *
314 S. CLOSNER * EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539**