

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

*Middle District of Florida
801 North Florida Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33602*

September 7, 2023

**An Invitation to Participate in the Annual High School Essay Contest
Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party**

Dear Superintendents, Principals, and Teachers,

On behalf of the lawyers and judges of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, and the members of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, we are pleased to invite students currently in grades 9 through 12 in counties in the Tampa Division of the Middle District of Florida (Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota) to participate in the 2023 High School Essay Contest.

The High School Essay Contest offers educators a unique opportunity to emphasize critical thinking, analysis, and writing, and gives students an engaging way to practice those skills while also considering more deeply what the Constitution means and how it impacts their lives. This year, students are asked to critically think and write about the concept of "no taxation without representation," how it is embodied in the United States Constitution, and how it applies to their lives.

Cash prizes are made possible by the lawyers and judges of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida through the Middle District Bench Bar Fund. The prizes available for this year's contest are:

First Place Winner	\$2,000.00
Second Place Winner	\$1,000.00
Third Place Winner	\$500.00
Fourth – Tenth Places, each	\$250.00
Classroom Grant for Teachers of Top Three Winners (one per teacher)	\$500.00

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Grant to School with the Most Qualifying Submissions	\$1,000.00
Grant to School with the Second Most Qualifying Submissions	\$500.00
Grant to School with the Third Most Qualifying Submissions	\$250.00

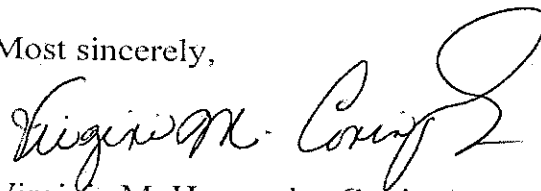
In addition, the first-place winner will be invited to shadow a United States District Judge for a day. Last year's winner had the opportunity to shadow not only a district court judge, but also a bankruptcy judge as well. Attached is a picture of last year's winner, Noah Adelson of Lakewood High School, receiving his award from District Judge Susan Bucklew.

Winning students (with family members), teachers, and representatives of the schools with the most submissions will be recognized at a ceremony at the Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse in Tampa in December 2023.

More details about the Essay Contest can be found by visiting the Middle District's website at www.flmd.uscourts.gov ("Court in the Community").

We hope that you will encourage robust participation in this year's contest. Kindly forward this letter to all administrators and teachers, including guidance counselors, who you believe may help generate excitement for and ensure record-breaking participation in the 2023 High School Essay Contest.

Most sincerely,



Virginia M. Hernandez Covington
United States District Judge