

2015 ESSAY & VIDEO CONTEST

OUR CONSTITUTION

*What the American Dream
Means to Me*

Cash Prizes
in both contests
1st place: \$2,000
2nd place: \$1,000
3rd place: \$500



Sponsored by the United States District Court for the Southern District of California and the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee. Held in conjunction with the 2015 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, scheduled for July 13-15, 2015, in San Diego, California. Contest winners will receive prizes and be invited along with other finalists to the opening session of the conference.



For more details visit <http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>

OUR CONSTITUTION

What the American Dream Means to Me

However you define it, the American Dream is solidly rooted in the democratic principles of our society. The Constitution, along with the Bill of Rights and later amendments, is the foundation of our democracy. It is these documents, upon which all of our subsequent laws depend, which provide for individual freedoms, equal opportunity, impartial justice and other democratic ideals.

“Our Constitution: What the American Dream Means to Me” is the theme of an upcoming civics contest focusing on how the American Dream is made possible by the Constitution. The contest is open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors in the greater San Diego area. The contest has two components: 1) Individual students can express their thoughts and ideas in an essay of 500 to 750 words or 2) Individual students or teams of students may submit a 2-3 minute video presentation on the theme. Students may participate in one or both competitions. Judging will be done primarily on the quality of the content.

In addition to cash prizes, student winners will be invited to the opening session of the 2015 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, scheduled for July 13, 2015, in San Diego. The winning essays will be distributed and videos shown at the conference, which draws some 800 judges and lawyers working in the federal courts of the western states.

The contests are sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California and the Ninth Circuit Courts & Community Committee. Contest rules and entry forms will be available **December 1, 2014**, at <http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>. Both essays and videos must be submitted electronically on or before **May 1, 2015**.

For more information, contact the Office of the Circuit Executive,
(415) 355-8973 / civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov.



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