



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

May 26, 2016

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Civics Contest Finalists Announced

SAN FRANCISCO – Preliminary judging has been completed in the 2016 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest for high school students in the western United States, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. All told, more than 700 young people entered the contest, which offers cash prizes and a chance to meet some of the nation’s preeminent jurists and legal practitioners.

The contest focused on the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Miranda v. Arizona. The 1966 ruling requires that persons in the custody of law enforcement officers be informed prior to questioning of their constitutional rights to remain silent and to have an attorney present during interrogation. Students were challenged to write an essay or produce a short video on the topic. Teams of up to three students were allowed for video production.

Many of the 15 federal courts in the Ninth Circuit held local contests with winners going on to compete in the circuit-wide competition. In all, 35 essays and 26 videos were selected for final consideration by the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee, which will announce the winners on June 1. The winning essay will be read and video shown on July 11 during the opening session of the 2016 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Montana.

Among the finalists are the winners of a local contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho. Prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 were awarded to top finishers in both the essay and video competitions. The winners are:

Essay: 1st, Miles Maxcer, senior, Moscow High School in Moscow; 2nd, Andrea Marotz, junior, Rigby High School in Rigby; 3rd, Michael Lejardi, senior, Homedale High School in Homedale.

At the circuit level, prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners in both the writing and video competition. In addition, first-place winners along with a parent/guardian will be invited to attend the circuit conference, a major gathering of the federal

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bench and bar in the western states. Prize money and travel costs are funded through attorney admission fees collected by the courts to fund educational programs for the bar and community.

“We are very pleased to have had so many students from so many different places in the circuit participate in the contest. They are all winners in our book,” said U.S. District Judge Janis L. Sammartino of San Diego, who chairs the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee.

The Ninth Circuit takes in the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Oregon, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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