

WEST PASCO BAR ASSOCIATION

LAW DAY

ESSAY CONTEST 2026

THE RULE OF LAW & THE AMERICAN DREAM



The 2026 Law Day theme is “The Rule of Law and the American Dream.” The rule of law—the idea that no person is above the law—is what ensures the rights of the people to live their lives as freely as possible and to pursue their dreams.



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LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST 2026

THE RULE OF LAW & THE AMERICAN DREAM

THE ESSAY:

This Law Day, the West Pasco Bar Association invites Pasco County high school students to write an essay pertaining to this year's theme: **"The American Dream & The Rule of Law."**

The American Dream is rooted in the idea that everyone should have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals, regardless of background, status, or wealth. Central to this promise is the Rule of Law, which is the principle that everyone is subject to the same laws and protections, and that no one is above the law.

In your essay, reflect on your own goals for the future and explain how the Rule of Law helps make it possible for you and others to pursue those goals fairly and safely. Consider how laws, courts, or constitutional protections promote fairness, resolve conflicts, and protect individual rights. Think about what challenges individuals or society might face if the Rule of Law did not exist.

- All essays must be submitted by **5:00 PM on April 10, 2026**.
- Essays should be no longer than 750 words, typed, and double space.
- Email your submission in PDF or WORD format along with your name, contact information, and the school you attend to: wpascobar@gmail.com.
- The West Pasco Bar Association will select finalists and they will be judged on format, clarity, style, reasoning, creativity, and overall effort. Essays believed to be written with AI will be disqualified.
- Contest winners & their parents will be invited to attend the West Pasco Bar Association's Installation Banquet at Spartan Manor. Essay winners will be notified of the date and time of the banquet where the winners will receive their prize.

PRIZES:

- First Prize: \$500.00
- Second Prize: \$300.00
- Third Prize: \$200.00