

**2024 Hon. Francis J. Darigan, Jr. Rhode Island Law Day Essay Contest**  
***Guidelines and Rules***

**Voices of Democracy**

The Rhode Island Judiciary, Rhode Island Bar Association, Rhode Island Bar Foundation, and Rhode Island Police Chief's Association are pleased to announce the 21st annual Hon. Francis J. Darigan, Jr. Rhode Island Law Day Essay Contest. **The Contest is open to all Rhode Island 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students attending school in Rhode Island, but only to those grades.** Through the generosity of the Rhode Island Bar Association, the Rhode Island Bar Foundation, and the Rhode Island Police Chief's Association, **the first-place essay author receives a \$2,000 scholastic award** and an engraved trophy cup. The winner's school receives a permanent plaque and the annual Law Day Essay Award Trophy to display until the next Contest. This year, a **second-place essay author** will also be recognized with a **\$500 scholastic award** donated by the Edward P. Gallogly Family Law Inns of Court and the Rhode Island Bar Foundation. We encourage all 10th, 11th, and 12th grade Rhode Island students to participate. The following guidelines and rules apply:

***The 2024 Rhode Island Law Day Essay Contest***

All essay entrants must, in no more than 1,000 words, describe how the electoral process supports democracy and explain why voting is an essential aspect of American citizens' rights and responsibilities.

Background information on this topic *Voices of Democracy* can be found on the Bar Association website [www.ribar.com](http://www.ribar.com) under: For the Public – 2024 Law Day. Students are also encouraged to draw on additional resources, but all outside information must be properly credited.

**A completed Student Entry form, signed by the sponsoring teacher, must accompany each essay entry.** Essays must not exceed 1,000 words. The essays are reviewed and the first and second place winners are selected by members of the faculty of the Roger Williams University School of Law.

**All entries must be received no later than Monday, May 13, 2024.**

Essays are submitted to:

[abaker@ribar.com](mailto:abaker@ribar.com)

**OR**

**2024 Law Day Essay Contest  
Rhode Island Bar Association  
41 Sharpe Drive  
Cranston, RI 02920**

Winners shall be announced on or before June 1, 2023.

Please direct any questions concerning the 2024 Rhode Island Law Day Essay Contest to: The Rhode Island Bar Association: Allison Baker, Programs Coordinator, by telephone: 401-421-5740 or email: [abaker@ribar.com](mailto:abaker@ribar.com).