

2016 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST

50 YEARS AFTER THE MIRANDA DECISION

*How Federal Courts Defined
the Rights of the Accused*

Cash Prizes
in both contests

1st place: \$2,000

+ Travel to Big Sky, Montana*

2nd place: \$1,000

3rd place: \$500

*See contest website for details



Sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho and the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee. Open to sophomores, junior and senior high school students in the state of Idaho. Rules and instructions are available at http://www.id.uscourts.gov/clerks/2016_Civics_Contest.cfm and <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>.

("Both contests" refers to essay and video entries; Idaho: 1st place-\$300; 2nd place-\$200, 3rd place \$100; Circuit: 1st place-\$2,000 + travel to Big Sky, Montana; 2nd place-\$1,000, 3rd place \$500)



2016 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST

50 YEARS AFTER THE MIRANDA DECISION

How Federal Courts Defined the Rights of the Accused

In 2016, the nation marks the 50th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision in Miranda v. Arizona. In that 1966 case, the court ruled that someone taken into police custody must be informed – prior to questioning – of their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. Now referred to as a “Miranda Warning” or a recitation of “Miranda Rights,” police must advise persons in custody of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney.

The 2016 Ninth Circuit Civics Scholarship Contest asks high school students to consider how Miranda rights came to be defined, how they are safeguarded by the federal courts and why they are so important to our system of justice.

The contest has two components: 1) Individual students can express their thoughts and ideas in an essay of 500 to 750 words, and 2) Individual students or teams of up to three students may submit a 2-3 minute video presentation on the theme. Students may participate in one or both competitions.

The Circuit level contest is open to students in nine western states, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Sophomores, juniors and seniors in public, private and parochial high schools and home-schooled students of equivalent status may participate. The contest ends on April 15, 2016. Local contest winners will be announced in May, with Circuit contest winners announced in June. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers at the local and Circuit level, as well as in both the essay and video competitions (Idaho: 1st place-\$300; 2nd place-\$200, 3rd place \$100; Circuit: 1st place-\$2,000 + travel to Big Sky, Montana¹; 2nd place-\$1,000, 3rd place \$500) . To be eligible to compete in the local contest, students must reside in the state of Idaho.

Additional resources regarding the Miranda v. Arizona decision:

C-SPAN – Landmark Cases: Miranda v. Arizona

<http://landmarkcases.c-span.org/Case/11/Miranda-V-Arizona>

Annenberg Classroom- Conversation on the Constitution: Miranda v. Arizona

<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/conversation-on-the-constitution-miranda-v-arizona>

Annenberg Classroom- The Right to Remain Silent: Miranda v. Arizona

<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/the-right-to-remain-silent-miranda-v-arizona>

United States Courts – Guided Activity

<http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/miranda-v-arizona>

The Phoenix Police Museum – The Miranda Case (as told by arresting officer Captain Carroll Colley)

<http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>

¹ See Circuit contest site for details (<http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>)

2016 NINTH CIRCUIT VIDEO CONTEST RULES

The Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is sponsored by the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee and the federal courts of the western United States.

Who May Enter: The Circuit level contest is open to high school students in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the local level contest is open to high school students in the state of Idaho. . Sophomores, juniors and seniors attending public, private, parochial and charter schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status are invited to participate. Videos may be submitted by an individual or by teams of up to 3 students. A student may be involved in the production of only one video. Children of employees of the federal courts are not eligible to participate.

Subject: The importance of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1966 decision, *Miranda v. Arizona*, in which the court ruled that someone taken into police custody must be informed – prior to questioning – of their right to remain silent. This decision became the basis for what is now referred to as a “Miranda Warning” or a recitation of “Miranda Rights.” Students should learn the facts of the case; understand the court’s decision and discuss the relevancy of the Fifth Amendment; and consider additional rights established by the courts for those accused of crimes.

Judging: Judging at both contest levels will be based on objective and subjective criteria. Students are encouraged to develop original content. Use of non-original content should not predominate. Scoring will be as follows:

Demonstrates an understanding of the theme	25 points
Engages the viewer, appeals on a subjective/emotional level	25 points
Exhibits originality and creativity	20 points
Displays good production values (AV quality, editing, etc.)	20 points
Complies with the rules	10 points

Length and Format: The video should be from 2 to 3 minutes long (not including end credits). Submit as MOV, MPEG4, MPEG2, MPEG, AVI or WMV files. Resolutions of 720x486 pixels to 1920x1080 pixels are acceptable. Files may not exceed 1GB in size. Videos should be compressed using the H.264 codec.

Deadline for Entries: Videos must be submitted electronically through the “Upload your Video” link at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>– by 5 p.m. Pacific Time on April 15, 2016. Instructions will be provided.

Release Forms: Should you become a finalist in the Circuit contest, you will be required to submit a release form allowing the Ninth Circuit to display your video at public events and on court websites. Further information will be provided to you at that time.

Copyright: Adherence to copyright laws and fair use practices will be required. Please consult the resources page on the Circuit’s website for more information.

Disqualification: Providing false information, not meeting the submission deadline, not providing a release form if requested may result in disqualification.

Questions: Circuit contest - contact the Office of the Circuit Executive, (415) 355-8973; local contest- contact Kirsten Wilkinson at (208) 334-9464 or kirsten_wilkinson@id.uscourts.gov.

2016 NINTH CIRCUIT ESSAY CONTEST RULES

The Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is sponsored by the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee and the federal courts of the western United States.

Who May Enter: The Circuit contest is open to high school students in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the local level contest is open to high school students in the state of Idaho. Sophomores, juniors and seniors attending public, private, parochial and charter schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status are invited to participate. Children of employees of the federal courts are not eligible to participate.

Subject: The importance of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1966 decision, *Miranda v. Arizona*, in which the court ruled that someone taken into police custody must be informed – prior to questioning – of their right to remain silent. This decision became the basis for what is now referred to as a “Miranda Warning” or a recitation of “Miranda Rights.” Students should learn the facts of the case; understand the court's decision and discuss the relevancy of the Fifth Amendment; and consider additional rights established by the courts for those accused of crimes.

Judging: Judging at both contest levels will be based on objective and subjective criteria. Students are encouraged to develop original content. Use of non-original content should not predominate. Scoring will be as follows:

Clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme	40 points
Understanding of legal principles	25 points
Technique	25 points
(grammar, spelling, composition, use of footnotes, bibliographies)	
Compliance with the rules	10 points

Length and Format: Essays should be between 500 and 750 words (not including footnotes and bibliographies if provided). Essays must be submitted electronically as Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat documents to this website – <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>. When entering the contest, you will be prompted to upload your document. Instructions will be provided.

Deadline for Entries: Essays must be submitted electronically through the “Upload your Essay” link at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>– by 5 p.m. Pacific Time on April 15, 2016. Instructions will be provided.

Release Forms: Should you become a finalist in the Circuit contest, you will be required to submit a release form allowing the Ninth Circuit to display your video at public events and on court websites. Further information will be provided to you at that time.

Copyright: Adherence to copyright laws and fair use practices will be required. Please consult the resources page on this website for more information.

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