

# OKLAHOMA BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY 2014

Contest Deadline  
Dec. 21, 2013

Oklahoma Bar Association  
Law Day 2014



- C3 Standards Aligned Writing Contests
- Free Form Art Contests
- Pre-K - 12
- \$500 Grand Prize
- Cash Prizes

More info:  
[www.okbar.org/public/outreach/lawday.aspx](http://www.okbar.org/public/outreach/lawday.aspx)

## LESSON 2: WHAT IS THE “RULE OF LAW?”

The Greek philosopher Aristotle said, “The **rule of law** is therefore preferable...than that of a single citizen.” The phrase “rule of law” sounds intimidating, but it simply means that we have rules and systems in place to help our society function.

The rule of law is more than just the laws that have been created, it is also the system for ensuring laws are applied fairly. The Constitution of the United States provides the basic structure for how rules will be created and applied.

Judges and lawyers play an important role in maintaining the rule of law. In our system of law, when a person is accused of breaking a law they often go to court. They are represented by a lawyer whose job is to help the accused receive a fair trial.

When the trial concludes, a judge or jury determines if they are guilty or innocent and, if they are guilty, what their punishment should be. Through the process there are many procedures that have been established by law that help protect an individual's rights.

### ACTIVITIES:

- Discuss the rules at your school. How do the rules help protect students? What happens if you break a rule? Compare and contrast school rules and laws in the United States.
- Consider the above quote from Aristotle. Discuss what it means and how it applies in a democratic society.
- Invite a local attorney or government leader to come to class and discuss the importance of the rule of law and how laws are made.

## OKLAHOMA LAW DAY 2014

Law day is the annual celebration of the importance of law and the legal process. First conceived by Wewoka attorney Hicks Epton, Law Day was formally recognized by President Eisenhower in a 1958 presidential proclamation.

### TEACHERS:

Take advantage of the Law Day writing and art contests for students  
Pre-K - 12th grade! The submission deadline is Dec. 21, 2013.

For more information, visit  
[www.okbar.org/public/outreach/LawDay](http://www.okbar.org/public/outreach/LawDay)

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