

# 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 4: HOW DO WE CHOOSE JUDGES IN OKLAHOMA?

Have you ever wondered how judges are chosen? In Oklahoma, many judges are chosen by the Judicial Nominating Commission.

### WHAT IS THE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION?

The Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) was created in 1967 after corruption scandals tarnished the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

The JNC selects judges based on their merit. Choosing a judge based on their qualifications ensures that they make decisions based on facts and the law rather than politics.

### WHO IS ON THE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION?

There are 15 members on the JNC: six lawyers and nine non-lawyers. The lawyers are elected by members of the Oklahoma Bar Association, an arm of the Oklahoma Supreme Court tasked with protecting the public and ensuring lawyers practice law responsibly. Of the nine non-lawyers on the JNC, the governor selects six, members of the legislature pick two and the commission picks one. All three branches of government work together to make sure the best judges get appointed.

### HOW DOES THE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION SELECT JUDGES?

When there is a vacancy on the Oklahoma Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Court of Civil Appeals or district courts, the commission chooses three possible candidates, and the governor picks one of those candidates to become a judge.

More information on the JNC is available at [www.oscn.net/Sites/JudicialNominatingCommission](http://www.oscn.net/Sites/JudicialNominatingCommission).

### ACTIVITIES:

- Invite an attorney to speak about the importance of an independent judiciary.
- Have students research the 1965 Oklahoma Supreme Court scandal and the circumstances surrounding the Judicial Nominating Commission's formation. Discuss why the scandals occurred and why they'd be less likely to happen today.

## 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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