



2016-2017 RULE OF LAW ESSAY CONTEST FOR BC SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Law Society of British Columbia (“the Law Society”) is the governing body of the legal profession in BC. It protects the public interest in the administration of justice by setting and enforcing standards of professional conduct for lawyers, and bringing a voice to issues affecting the justice system and the delivery of legal services. Promoting and protecting the public interest are key priorities for the Law Society, which are reflected in the Law Society’s strategic goals: providing the public better access to legal services; ensuring the public is well served by an innovative and effective Law Society; and working to establish greater public confidence in the rule of law and the administration of justice.

In 2015, the Law Society’s Rule of Law and Lawyer Independence Advisory Committee launched an annual essay contest for BC secondary students as a way of reaffirming the significance of the Rule of Law and enhancing students’ knowledge and willingness to participate actively in civic life.

For the 2016-17 school year, the Law Society is inviting all Grade 12 students and students who have taken, or are currently enrolled in, either Law 12 or Civic Studies 11, to submit an essay on the following topic:

How would you explain the Rule of Law to a fellow student who has never heard the term before? You might discuss why the Rule of Law is important, and how it impacts our daily lives. You might also discuss any current events involving threats to the Rule of Law.

The Law Society will select the winning essay and runner up from the entries it receives. The winning entry will be awarded a \$1000 prize, and the runner up will receive \$500. The first place winner and runner up will be invited to an awards presentation event at the Law Society in Vancouver.

We invite high schools throughout the province to encourage their students to participate in the Essay Contest. The Law Society believes that a solid understanding of the relevance of the Rule of Law is critical to good citizenship and to preserving the rights, freedoms and democratic values we share as Canadians. Details about eligibility, judging criteria and submission guidelines are attached as a separate document.