



2021-2022 RULE OF LAW ESSAY CONTEST FOR BC SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Law Society of British Columbia is the governing body of the legal profession in BC and regulates lawyers to protect the public interest in the administration of justice. As part of its mandate, the Law Society is committed to bringing a voice to issues affecting the justice system.

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 2021-2022 school year, the Law Society invites all Grade 12 students and students who have taken, or are currently enrolled in, either Law 12, Political Studies 12, Social Justice 12 or Social Studies 11, to submit an essay on the following topic:

The right to freedom of expression is used to justify demonstrations for or against various causes in our society. How does freedom of expression intersect with the rule of law? In what circumstances can courts prohibit or limit a protest or demonstration? Discuss whether your answer is affected by the popularity or unpopularity of the cause.

The Law Society will select one winning essay and one runner-up from the entries it receives. The winning entry will be awarded a \$1,000 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.