

Law Society of British Columbia

2025-2026 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 initiated an annual essay contest for BC secondary school 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 2025-2026 school year, the Law Society invites any Grade 11 or Grade 12 student, or any student currently enrolled in either Law 12, Political Studies 12, Social Justice 12, Social Studies 11 or similar course, to submit an essay on the following topic:

In a famous case in 1958 called *Roncarelli v. Duplessis*, the Supreme Court of Canada held that the rule of law was a fundamental postulate of the Canadian constitutional structure. What do you think the Court meant by that, and give examples of how the Court's judgment may still be relevant today.

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.

We invite secondary 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.