

NEVADA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
2018 LAW DAY HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

\$1,500 First Prize (The Ray Shine Memorial Scholarship)¹
\$1,000 Second Prize
\$500 Third Prize

The Nevada County Bar Association hereby presents its 2018 High School Essay Scholarship Contest. This year's theme is "**Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom.**"

The criteria for this scholarship are:

- It is open to all public, private and home-schooled high school students in Nevada County, who are in grades 9 to 12 as of August 15, 2018, or the home-schooled equivalent.
- **Essay required on the one-page question attached to this announcement.** The essay must be the applicant's original work, no more than 500 words in length, typewritten or computer generated, with double-spacing and 1-inch margins on all sides. The applicant's name must not be included in or on the essay.
- The application form must be completed and returned to the address below with the essay by Monday, October 15, 2018. Essays received after this date will not be accepted.
- The criteria for evaluating essays will emphasize a well-reasoned and well-stated argument. The position taken in the essay is immaterial. What is essential is that the argument be well-reasoned and supported by evidence, arguments, or other rhetorical means of persuasion. Grammar, spelling, punctuation and clarity of thought and expression are the remaining criteria.
- No affiliation with the Nevada County Bar Association or its members is required for entry, but no person related to an entrant may participate in judging entries.

ENTRIES MUST BE MAILED, FAXED, OR E-MAILED AND RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018 AT:

NEVADA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
c/o Stephen C. Baker
Diamond Baker Mitchell, LLP
149 Crown Point Court, Suite B
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 272-8463 (fax); sbaker@diamondbaker.com.
Please note, e-mail submissions are preferred but not required.

¹ The NCBA is naming the first place prize "The Ray Shine Memorial Scholarship" in honor of the late Nevada County Attorney.

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QUESTION

The U.S. Constitution sets out a system of government with distinct and independent branches—Congress, the Presidency, and a Supreme Court. These three separate branches share power, and each branch serves as a check on the power of the others. "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition," James Madison explained in Federalist 51, explaining that these checks and balances preserve political liberty. George Washington, however, noted that political parties, though they may "now and then answer popular ends," in the course of time would become "potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government."

Please address our system of governance and the interaction between political parties and the three separate branches using the following questions to guide your analysis:

What happens if the legislative and executive branches are controlled by the same party? Does the separation of powers outlined in the U.S. Constitution provide the necessary check on a single party obtaining too much power? What changes do you think could account for one party yielding a disparate amount of influence? Would a change to parliament-style of governance help? What about changes such as eliminating the electoral college or reallocating the number of senators a state is allotted based on population?

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APPLICATION FORM

Date: _____ Nevada County High School: _____

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

ENTRIES, INCLUDING ESSAY AND THIS FORM, MUST BE MAILED, FAXED OR E-MAILED AND RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018 AT:

NEVADA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

c/o STEPHEN C. BAKER

DIAMOND BAKER MITCHELL, LLP

149 CROWN POINT COURT, SUITE B

GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945

(530) 272-8463 (fax); sbaker@diamondbaker.com

E-mail submissions are preferred but not required.