

2016 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST

50 YEARS AFTER THE MIRANDA DECISION

*How Federal Courts Defined
the Rights of the Accused*

Cash Prizes
in both contests

1st place: \$2,000
2nd place: \$1,000
3rd place: \$500



An essay and video contest sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska and the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee. Rules and entry instructions will be available December 1, 2015, at



<http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>

50 YEARS AFTER THE MIRANDA DECISION

How Federal Courts Defined the Rights of the Accused

In 2016, the nation marks the 50th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision in Miranda v. Arizona. In that 1966 case, the court ruled that someone taken into police custody must be informed – prior to questioning – of their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. Now referred to as a “Miranda Warning” or a recitation of “Miranda Rights,” police must advise persons in custody of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney.

The 2016 Ninth Circuit Civics Scholarship Contest asks high school students to consider how Miranda Rights came to be defined, how they are safeguarded by the federal courts and why they are so important to our system of justice.

The contest has two components: 1) Individual students can express their thoughts and ideas in an essay of 500 to 750 words, and 2) Individual students or teams of up to three students may submit a 2-3 minute video presentation on the theme. Students may participate in one or both competitions.

The contest is open to students in nine western states, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Sophomores, juniors and seniors in public, private and parochial high schools and home-schooled students of equivalent status may participate. The contest begins January 1, 2016, and ends on April 15, 2016. Circuit contest winners will be announced in June. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions. Contest rules, entry instructions and other information will be available December 1, 2015, at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>.



The U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska will conduct preliminary judging for the contest. The district will hold a local contest to select finalists who will move on to compete in the Ninth Circuit contest. The district will award cash prizes for top finishers in both the essay and video categories. District winners will receive \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third

place. More information on the local contest will be available December 1, 2015, at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>.

For more information about the district contest, please contact Ruth Tronnes at (907) 677-6210 / Ruth_Tronnes@akd.uscourts.gov