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December 2016

*Corrected*  
Re: The Annual Law-Related Education Public High School Essay Contest

Dear High School Principal/Teacher:

We are pleased to announce our annual New York City Public High School Essay Contest. We are seeking essays on the following topic: *What is a constitutional convention (in New York State) and why is it valuable? Provide two to five specific proposals that would be beneficial to your community and that could be considered at the next constitutional convention? Delegates get elected then meet and develop amendments that get voted on by voters: redistricting, age of criminal liability, age of voting, age of drinking/smoking; election vs. appointment of judges; home rule (regulate rent and evictions); recall elected officials; citizen's referenda; judge's mandatory retirement. Support your positions with facts, reasons and legal references, to the extent possible.*

Our Law-Related Education Committee will review the essays and select the winners who will receive prizes of \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place, \$500 for third place and \$300 for fourth place. An awards ceremony will be held at the New York County Lawyers' Association.

Essays will be judged based on originality of ideas, writing style, format, and grammar. Thus, while teachers are encouraged to discuss the general topic with their students, in the interest of fairness, we ask that teachers not edit or correct essays prior to their submission. Moreover, our committee members look forward to the opportunity to review each essay submitted, so we strongly discourage schools from conducting any type of preliminary selection of essays. Each student who takes the time and effort to write an essay will receive consideration by our Law-Related Education Committee.


Essays must be formatted as follows:

- student's name, school's name, school's phone number, and teacher/advisor's name must appear on the top of the first page (even on essay's submitted directly by students) and no cover page;
- type-written on 8½ by 11 inch paper; 12 point font, double spaced, with one inch margins on all sides;
- pages must be numbered at the bottom;
- between three to five pages in length, containing between 750-1000 words; and
- no footnotes or endnotes (if any quotes are used, the source should be referenced directly in the text of the essay).

Please submit essays no later than March 1, 2017. We prefer that essays be submitted as pdf files to Judge Richard Lee Price at: [Judgerlprice@gmail.com](mailto:Judgerlprice@gmail.com). Alternatively, hard-copies of essays may be mailed to: Justice Richard Lee Price, Chair, Law-related Education Committee, 14 Vesey Street, New York, New York 10007. In addition, please advise us in writing of the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of a contact person at your school through whom we may coordinate this program. While we prefer that essays be submitted through a teacher, students may directly submit essays on their own.

Finally, if you are interested in having an attorney speak to your students relating to the court system, law as a career, or specific topics of civil or criminal law, please contact me at Bronx County Hall of Justice, 265 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street, Chambers #934, Bronx, New York 10451. We look forward to working with you and your school.

Very truly yours,

  
Richard Lee Price, Chair