



# Celebrating 225 Years of the Federal Courts and Article III of the U.S. Constitution

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Please write an essay of not more than 500 words explaining what a fair and impartial federal judiciary means to you and to our nation.

## What a Fair and Impartial Federal Judiciary Means to Me and to the United States

Article III of the United States Constitution states that the “judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.”

Two hundred twenty five years ago, the First United States Congress passed the Judiciary Act of 1789. President George Washington signed the bill into law on September 24, 1789. This law created district courts and circuit courts of appeals throughout the new nation, and demonstrated the nation’s commitment to a fair and impartial federal judiciary.

“What a Fair and Impartial Federal Judiciary Means to Me and to the United States” is the theme of a civics contest for high school students. For background, students may view “Court Shorts” at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TywjEd6QPuk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TywjEd6QPuk). Students may describe how the creation of an independent federal judiciary two hundred and twenty five years ago has shaped their lives and their communities.

### The Rules:

- The contest is open to students attending high schools in the United States.
- Essay may be submitted electronically via the Federal Judges Association website or by mail.
- Essay must not be more than 500 words.
- Essay MUST BE accompanied by a completed entry form (online or paper version).
- Entry form should be stapled to the essay if hard copy is submitted.
- Essay must be student’s own work; no more than one entry per student.
- Entries become the property of the Federal Judges Association and may be reprinted by the Federal Judges Association.

### The Prizes:

**First Prize: \$500**

**Second Prize: \$100**

**Third Prize: \$50**

**Deadline: April 11, 2014**

The winners will be chosen by federal judge members of the Federal Judges Association and attorneys from the Federal Bar Association.

Sponsored by the Federal Judges Association and the Federal Bar Association.



## What a Fair and Impartial Federal Judiciary Means to Me and to the United States

You may submit the essay online or by hard copy.

\*For students submitting their essays online, please follow the instructions at the Federal Judges Association Website (<https://www.federaljudgesassoc.org/>).

\*For students submitting their essays by mail, fill out the form below and mail to:

Federal Judges Association Essay  
c/o Hon. Marilyn L. Huff  
333 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Deadline: April 11, 2014

Student Name:	
School Name:	
Sponsoring Teacher, Counselor, Advisor, or Principal (Optional):	
School Address:	
School Phone:	