

News Release  
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### **Polk County Students and Teachers Receive Polk County Bar Law Day Awards**

The Polk County Bar Association (PCBA) sponsored its annual Law Day Competition again this year for students in grades 6-12 in the Polk Co. metro area. This year's theme was "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters." Participating students were encouraged to explore the importance of protecting every citizen's right to vote through visual arts, music, essay and poetry.

The winning students and teachers were honored at a special luncheon at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott Hotel on May 13, 2014. The featured speaker was Drake University Political Science Professor Dennis Goldford.

The winning teachers and students and their schools are as follows:

#### Essay Competition- Middle School

First Place: Shantal Hernandez Guerrero, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny  
Second Place: Casey Hodson, Summit Middle School, Johnston  
Third Place: Ryan Holst, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny  
Ben Wonderlin, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines

#### Poetry Competition- Middle School

First Place: Harshini Abbaraju, Johnston Middle School, Johnston  
Second Place: Jacob Wang, Northview Middle School, Ankeny  
Third Place: Olivia Appel, Merrill Middle School, Des Moines

#### Visual Arts-Middle School

First Place: Ryan Sleister, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny  
Michael Lu, Holy Trinity School, Des Moines  
Second Place: Zoey Tucker, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines  
Third Place: Maya Char, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines  
Jennifer Ly, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines

#### Music and Performing Arts-Middle School

First Place: Adam Jackson, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines  
Niall Moore, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines

Second Place: Hailey Conklin, Meredith Middle School, Des Moines  
Persephone Snyder, Meredith Middle School, Des Moines

#### Essay Competition-High School

First Place: Peter Beebe, Johnston Middle School, Johnston  
Second Place: Morgan Bump, Johnston Middle School, Johnston  
Third Place: Sydney Samples, Saydel High School, Saydel  
Richelle Manuel, Ankeny Centennial High School, Ankeny

#### Poetry Competition-High School

First Place: Lavina Kalwani, Johnston Middle School, Johnston  
Second Place: Andris Kirsis, Dowling Catholic High School, West Des Moines  
Shivani Kumaresan, Central Academy, Des Moines

#### Visual Arts-High School

First Place: Integrity Narcisse, Roosevelt High School, Des Moines  
First Place: Claudia Tice, Johnston Middle School, Johnston  
Second Place: Jillian Gabby, Johnston Middle School, Johnston

#### Music and Performing Arts-High School

First Place: Addi Seybert, Johnston Middle School, Johnston  
Second Place: Anna Losen, Johnston Middle School, Johnston  
Emily Poss, Johnston Middle School, Johnston

#### Best Teacher Participation Awards

John Stratton, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny  
Ali Bennett, St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines  
Brenda Smrdel, Johnston Middle School, Johnston

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