



## *Judge Warren C. Caswell*

Juvenile Court of the Northern Judicial Circuit

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PO Box 318 11a, GA 30647-0318

Tel: (706) 789 3609

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Contact: Warren C. Caswell (706) 789 3609 / wccaswell@hotmail.com

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Head: Juvenile Court Judge Announces Law Day Essay Contest

(Danielsville, GA) The Northern Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court announces that it is continuing the tradition of its judge, Hon. Warren C. Caswell, in sponsoring a Law Day essay contest for local area students. This year is the Fourteenth consecutive year of the contest. This year's topic centers on the 2019 Law Day Theme Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society. Focusing on these cornerstones of representative government allows us to understand and protect these rights to ensure, as the US Constitution promises "the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity." Specifically the question is: How, and why, would you revise the First Amendment if given the opportunity?

This year's question results from actual events. On December 24 and 25, 2018 the major United States media outlets were reporting the same story with regard to the whereabouts of President Donald Trump. The report was that the President was alone and safely ensconced in the White House. Those same outlets further reported that First Lady Melania Trump was with their minor child at the Trumps' personal residence in Mar-a-Lago, Florida. In fact, this was an elaborate hoax of the government targeted at the media. In reality, the President and First Lady were on their way to a combat zone to visit U.S. troops over the Christmas holiday. However, on their way to the combat zone a plane spotter took a picture of Air Force One flying over his backyard. He quickly posted the photo to social media sites which were soon abuzz with speculation. Soon the poster and others found the flight plan which Air Force One would follow and

determined not only where the President and First Lady would land, but also when. This information was also shared via numerous social media sites. Some saw this as a grave threat to the President's personal safety, others, including some security experts, disagreed.

Based on these events, this year we are asking students: Given the ability of social media to rapidly distribute information of a potentially secret or unsafe nature; how would you revise the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and why? If you would not revise the First Amendment, explain your reasons for not making any changes.

A complete answer will provide reasons why the essayist's chosen position aligns with the principles of the Constitution. First Prize is a \$500.00 cash scholarship and second prize is a \$200 cash scholarship. All high school aged students residing in Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison & Oglethorpe Counties are eligible as well as any similarly aged student currently in the care of the Northern Circuit Juvenile Court, regardless of where they are placed. Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2019 and winners will be announced on Law Day, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Full details, contest rules, and background information are available on the internet at [www.warrencaswelllaw.com](http://www.warrencaswelllaw.com)

Law Day was first proclaimed by President Eisenhower in 1958 and is a day of national dedication to the principle of government under law. Each year the American Bar Association, and a multitude of state and local bar associations, hold events and celebrations honoring law day to educate the public about the role of law in our society.

The Annual Law Day Essay Contest is designed to encourage young people to think about the role of law in society and how law affects their everyday lives, even at a young age. Local Juvenile Court Judge Warren Caswell has sponsored the contest each year since opening his practice in Madison County. According to Judge Caswell "Critical thinking and the ability to advocate a controversial position in writing are paramount for success in today's world; this contest will provide students an opportunity to practice these crucial skills while reflecting how our laws meet, or fall short, of their own expectations."