Announcing Video Contest

The Courts, Community, and Rule of Law Committee of the Judicial Council of the Third Circuit announced today that it is hosting an Annual Third Circuit American Democracy Video Contest for high school students in grades nine through twelve on the **Importance of American Democracy**.

Brought to you by the Third Circuit Courts, Community, and Rule of Law Committee

High school students will submit original-content videos depicting why our democratic institutions and the fundamental rights and principles associated with them are critical to the future of the country. Videos are to be 5-7 minutes in

length, and a rotating subcommittee of our circuit-wide committee will judge the videos and select one winner. The winner will be celebrated at the federal courthouse in the winner's home district (or division) during a naturalization ceremony. The winning video will be played during all districts' naturalization ceremonies until the next winner is selected. The winning video also will appear on the Third Circuit's website, district websites, and other related social media platforms. Video Contest submissions are due on Monday, November 2, 2026, and the award will be presented in early to mid-December, in celebration of Bill of Rights Day. The videos will be evaluated based on creativity, adherence to the theme, and content.

2026 Video Contest Rules

DEADLINES: Video Contest opens Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Entries must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Monday, November 2, 2026.

The winner will be selected in early to mid-November 2026.

PRIZE: An award will be presented to the winner in the winner's home district (or division) during a naturalization ceremony. The winning video will be played during all districts' naturalization ceremonies until the next winner is selected. The winning video also will appear on the Third Circuit's website, district websites, and other related social media platforms. The award will be presented in early to mid-December, in celebration of Bill of Rights Day.

If you have difficulty uploading your video, please contact 267-232-0233.

By entering the Video Contest, you agree that the video may be shown at naturalization ceremonies, on court websites, and other related social media platforms.

LENGTH AND FORMAT: Videos are to be in standard ***mp4*** format, 5-7 minutes in length, and a rotating subcommittee of our circuit-wide committee will judge the videos and select one winner.

JUDGING: Videos will be judged on three criteria:

(1) Creativity, (2) Adherence to the Theme, and (3) Content

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTEST PLEASE CONTACT US:

Courts_Community_Rule_of_Law@ca3.uscourts.gov or 267-299-4306