



United States Courts for the District of Idaho

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NEWS RELEASE

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District of Idaho Announces 2023 Civics Contest Winners

BOISE –The United States District Court for the District of Idaho is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 District of Idaho high school civics contest. For the essay portion of the contest, the winners are: First place (\$1,000) – Ayden Kelley of Moscow High School in Moscow [[essay link here](#)]; second place (\$500) – Megan Tomlinson of Liberty Charter School in Nampa; and third place (\$250) – Isabella Ristine of Moscow High School in Moscow. For the video portion of the contest, the winners are: First place (\$1,000) – Delaney Blenkinsop of Boise High School in Boise [[video link here](#)]; second place (\$500) – the team of Bradley Mason and Ashton Hickerson of Post Falls High School in Post Falls; and third place (\$250) – Riley McLing of Post Falls High School in Post Falls.

The theme for this year’s contest was “The 28th Amendment: What Should Our Next Amendment Be?” Open to all Idaho students in grades 9-12, the contest challenged students to propose a 28th Amendment to the United State Constitution and describe how they would get the proposed amendment ratified. Students were encouraged to submit either an essay or video (or both) addressing this topic.

The District of Idaho received a record number of submissions this year – 219 essays and 25 video entries representing nearly a quarter of all submissions received in the Ninth Circuit. U.S. Magistrate Judge Debora Grasham, who serves on the District’s Civics Contest Committee, noted that this year’s record number of entries seems to have been the result of teachers’ promotion of the contest. “The District of Idaho is grateful to the many high school teachers around the state who took the time to encourage their students to enter our contest this year. In fact, two teachers – Gerald Dalebout from Moscow High School and Jeremy Zender of Post Falls High School – had two students finish in the top three in each of our essay and video contests. We appreciate the hard work of all the high school teachers who made this year’s contest a success.”

The first-place winners will automatically have their submissions entered into the Ninth Circuit civics contest. Winners in each of the essay and video contests at the Ninth Circuit will be awarded \$3,000 in prize money, plus travel and accommodations to attend the 2023 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Portland, Oregon. Second place will receive \$1,700 in prize money, and third place will receive \$1,000 in prize money.

The winners of the District contest will be recognized in a ceremony at the Coeur d'Alene federal courthouse on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 12 p.m. Pacific.

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