THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2023 THIRD CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS ESSAY CONTEST

In commemoration of Law Day, the Courts, Community, and Rule of Law Committee of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals hosted an essay contest for fifth, sixth and seventh grade students within the Third Circuit, which is comprised of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The District of Delaware invited local schools throughout all three counties in the District to submit class essays on the topic, "*Why the right to vote is important to me and to our country?*" The essays were evaluated by a panel of Judges on the District and Bankruptcy Courts for focus, content development, organization and style.

Winning submissions were selected from the following schools: Mr. Joseph Till's seventh grade class from Thomas A. Edison Charter School of Wilmington and Ms. Erica Varites' fifth Grade Class from Cooke Elementary School. The Runner Up submissions were selected from the following schools: Ms. Alexandra Griffith's fifth grade class from William Henry Middle School and Ms. Karen Banta's fifth grade class from Saint Peter Cathedral School. On Law Day, May 1, 2023, the District Court of the District of Delaware held a public ceremony in Judge Maryellen Noreika's courtroom in the J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building where the students from each of the four winning classes read their respective essays. Judge Maryellen Noreika was joined by Bankruptcy Judge J. Kate Stickles and Magistrate Judge Sherry Fallon. The Judges presented congratulatory remarks to the students on the excellent quality of the submissions and the impressive presentations by the student speakers. All essay submissions were outstanding and reflected the thoughtfulness and effort the students and teachers dedicated to this contest.

The District Court extends sincere thanks to the participating students and teachers, and the Courts, Community and Rule of Law Committee of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.