

2008 LAW DAY
ESSAY CONTEST

FIRST PLACE

The Rule of Law:
Foundation for Communities
of Opportunity and Equity

Monte Cole Flowers
Memphis Catholic High School
12th Grade, Memphis

The construction of our legal system is based on the Rule of Law, which is the near perfect resolution that was drafted by the best of our predecessors and is the pedestal of a grand nation. We as a people must sustain a fair mind about how law influences our lives through local, state, and national governments. There is such cohesion between our lifestyles and the law that most people neglect to realize that the law plays a role in their lives. We, as human beings – as American citizens – have a great privilege and opportunity to learn more about our country's strong, fair, and accessible legal system. With citizens of the world getting more competitive and knowledgeable, we must follow our path and accept our calling in this advancing society.

The principles and foundations that our legal system was built on are unquestionable. Our motives to form such a magnificent system came not from satisfaction and achievement, but from tyranny and an act of righteousness. Many have fought and sacrificed their lives for the continuation and dignity of our country, and that is why we should hold our legal system on high. We need not take the Rule of Law for granted, but recognize that our Rule of Law is ever present and meaningful today.

Our (The People's) Rule of Law is not obsolete, but is ever so modern, and it continues to be an example for other nations to follow. I am proud to be an American, and I am proud of the things for which we stand. Our Founding Fathers thought this was worth fighting for, they thought this was worth dying for – and I think they are right. I feel honored to live in such a nation – a nation under God.

The Rule of Law has always been near-perfect, but we as humans have always been on the brink of misinterpretation. As smart as we become, ignorance seems to take form. Despite our legal system, people are still mistreated and misunderstood. I could go

on to speak on the injustices of the Woman's Suffrage Movement, the Civil Rights Movement, and predatory lenders, but this only shows the trials and tribulations our Rule of Law has been through and how it has sustained a fair and effective equity among its governed.

We are a self-governing nation that has abided by the Declaration of Natural Rights since its inception in 1787. We have been a model for other nations to follow. Though some may question our validity, we strive to have "...a nation conceived with liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal..." Our self-governing system is not perfect, but it works – it is the best system humans can hope to establish.

Equality also plays a major role in our self-governing system, which is the backbone of the Rule of Law. Without equality, we are bound to be ignorant to others. As a society, we have improved our equality situation; but we still have ways to go. There is an unending struggle for equality. People fear what they do not understand, and the Rule of Law proclaims everybody to be equal. Still, people sometimes fear change. Although the Rule of Law is not perfect, it strives to treat us all as equals. Despite our fears, equality still flourishes in our midst; and it will continue to be challenged. But as long as we have educated, determined, and patriotic American citizens, we have nothing to fear and everything to gain.

Many people do not make the connection between the Rule of Law and their daily lives because this sort of information is becoming lost. People are losing the will to learn, and this will doom our cause to loss, which will destroy hope. An educated people, especially in the Rule of Law, will ensure our survival for the future. And finally, when

we choose to uphold the responsibility to take action, we can look forward to a new birth of freedom. A freedom that was challenged by, and has withstood tyranny, division, depression, war, racism, terrorism, and many other threats; and still we triumph. We have a freedom that has earned its place in history, not by fierce brutality, but by love and honor for one another. So, if I were asked, "What makes America so great?" I would say that it is definitely the Rule of Law which governs us, but I would also say that it is the people.

When we leave this world, we will remember America and the Rule of Law. And when we do leave, they will not speak on how we died, but how we lived as Americans.