



An Association of *Barristers • Solicitors • Mediators*

Calgary Family Law Associates High School Mixed Media Competition 2024

Topic: How do cultural norms, beliefs, or values impact an individual's or community's participation in the criminal, family or other aspect of the justice system and what steps can be taken to address such participation, or lack of participation, to improve access to justice in Canada?

In connection with the 2024 Youth Leaders in Law Conferences across Canada, Calgary Family Law Associates (CFLA) is sponsoring a competition for high school students to submit a piece of personal work on the above topic.

In recent years, the Department of Justice has pledged to “advance a people-centered approach to justice”. In fact, they have committed to promote access to justice through the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Department of Justice is particularly committed to SDG 16, which commits the government to **“promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.”**

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/access-acces/index.html>

Canada has a diverse range of communities with differing cultural norms, beliefs or values. Some of these cultural beliefs or values may hinder an individual's willingness or ability to, among other things:

- report a crime to the police,
- make a court application to enforce a legal right,
- pursue their children's best interests,
- obtain child or spousal support,
- file a human rights complaint before the Human Rights Commission
- pursue a legal education, or
- retain a lawyer.



An Association of *Barristers • Solicitors • Mediators*

Individuals may come to Canada from countries with different laws, legal systems, or beliefs in the rule of law. This issue underscores a broader imperative on how we can provide and ensure equitable access to justice for all Canadians.

Competition entries can focus on the broad implications of culture on access to justice and/or specific cultures and cultural issues that pertain to participation in the justice system and access to justice.

Monetary prizes will be awarded for the top 3 entries as follows:

1st prize - \$300,

2nd prize - \$150, and

3rd prize - \$50.

Submissions may be made by any high school student in Canada in their choice of media: essay, poem, story, script, art, or video. Written entries must be 5 pages or less. Video entries must be 5 minutes or less.

Submissions will be judged anonymously by CFLA lawyers. Winning entries may be posted online.

Please submit all entries to Calgary Family Law Associates, c/o Rani Wong, at #450, 340 12 Avenue SW., Calgary, AB T2R 1L5 or to rani.assistant@cfla.law. The Entry Submission Form must accompany all entries and students' names should not appear on the work itself, only on the Entry Submission Form. All submissions must be received on or before midnight MST on Sunday, June 2nd, 2024.



An Association of *Barristers • Solicitors • Mediators*

Calgary Family Law Associates High School Mixed Media Competition 2024

Entry Submission Form

Name: _____

High School (include city/province): _____

Grade: _____

Contact Information: Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

By submitting your entry to the Calgary Family Law Associates High School Mixed Media Competition 2024 you and your parent;/guardian hereby consent to have your work posted online or displayed as part of the Competition and Youth Leaders in Law Conferences across Canada.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print please): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____