

PRESS RELEASE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
Roger A. G. Sharpe, Clerk
46 East Ohio Street Room 105
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Indianapolis, Indiana (December 7, 2020): The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana is pleased to announce three Indiana winners from the District Court's Bill of Rights student competition. Students from across the state submitted essays, poems, art, and videos expressing their thoughts on the importance of the Bill of Rights and its meaning in their lives. The Court received many wonderful submissions and the decision was difficult. All students who entered a submission are to be congratulated for their effort.

The Indiana winners are:

Elementary School – Charles Chen, fifth grade, University Elementary School, Bloomington
Middle School - Kelton Wong O'Connell, seventh grade, Jackson Creek Middle School,
Bloomington

High School – Christian Arnold, ninth grade, North High School, Evansville

Indiana students with winning submissions went on to compete in a grand prize contest, where their entries were judged against other district winners from the ten states that comprise the Seventh and Eighth Circuits. Grand prize winners were announced during an evening program for families on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. First place in the Elementary School competition was awarded to Divya Thamman of Minnesota for her creative song about the Bill of Rights. In the High School contest, first place was awarded to Brooke Luechtefeld of Illinois for her inspired poem. First place in the Middle School competition went to Kelton Wong O'Connell of Indiana for his video documentary.

Kelton's video featured a discussion of the first amendment and the important role that it plays in the lives of everyday citizens, including himself. His hard work and creativity in putting the piece together were evident in the finished product. When asked to comment on his winning submission, Kelton said, "I was thrilled! I'm so glad I could apply my knowledge and first-hand experience about the Bill of Rights with my skills in filmmaking to make my winning entry."

Congratulations to all contest winners! Winning submissions from Indiana can be viewed on the [Court's website](#).

