

OBJECTION! POETRY SLAM AND ART EXHIBIT
RULES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Welcome to Objection! The Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Service to the Public Committee (the Committee) is excited to hear, see, and experience your take on Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society. The information and rules on the following pages are designed to answer most of your questions. If they do not, please contact the Committee at ObjectionPoetrySlam@mbabar.org.

The goal of this event is to get participants excited about civics topics, and to be as inclusive as possible. Any accommodation requests should be submitted to the Committee at the email above.

Information and Rules for the Poetry Slam

Participant Eligibility

- Participants must be ages 13 to 22.
- No prior experience or other eligibility is required.

Deadlines and Sign-up Information

- Participants should sign up by emailing ObjectionPoetrySlam@mbabar.org with their name, age, school (if applicable), and contact information.
- In that email, participants may also request to have an attorney mentor assigned to them. Attorney mentors will be assigned as they become available.
- Submissions may be emailed to ObjectionPoetrySlam@mbabar.org and should be received no later than May 17, 2019.

Poem Requirements

- Each poem must be of the poet's own construction, although participants may receive assistance.
- Each poem should relate to this year's theme—Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society.
- The theme of the competition is based on the American Bar Association's theme for "Law Day," which is celebrated on May 1st of each year. The American Bar Association has this to say about the theme: In the United States and around the world, freedom of speech and the press are among the most important foundations for a free society. Free speech and free press are prominent topics in public discourse and litigation. It is impossible to imagine a free society without these individual liberties, yet historical and current debates surrounding them continually challenge us to consider their boundaries and resilience. Changes in technology have reshaped how free speech and free press work in the everyday world. The 2019 Law Day theme – Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society – focuses on these cornerstones of representative government and calls on us to understand and protect these rights to ensure, as the U.S. Constitution proposes, "the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity."
- In the event that the Committee receives more submissions than can be performed at the poetry slam event, priority will be given to poems related to this year's theme.

Performance Information

- Each poet gets four minutes (plus a fifteen-second grace period) to perform one poem. Poets will be signaled at the four-minute mark and stopped at the expiration of the grace period.
- The poet may not use props, costumes, or musical instruments.
- Poets who prefer to avoid the limelight, but would like to share their art, expression, and thoughts may submit their poems to ObjectionPoetrySlam@mbabar.org.
- All poems, with the consent of the artist,—including those being performed—will be displayed at the event if participants choose to submit their work beforehand.
- The poetry slam will be held on Friday, May 24 from 6pm to 9pm at the Lagunitas Community Room, 237 NE Broadway Street, #300, Portland, Oregon 97232. Food and drinks are provided.
- Participants are not required to be present for their submissions to be displayed.

Prizes

- Performances will be judged by a selection of local artists and legal professionals.
- Cash prizes will be awarded to participants in a variety of categories, including:
 - Most on theme
 - Most informative
 - Overall best performance
- Participants who choose not to perform their pieces are eligible for prizes in some, but not all, of the categories for performing participants, including:
 - Most on theme
- The Committee may determine the prizes for certain categories before the event based on the written submissions.
- Participants are required to be present to be eligible for prizes.

Miscellaneous

- Art and creativity is encouraged and will be celebrated, but the Committee reserves the right to disqualify any poem from this contest if the YLS, in its sole discretion, believes the poem is violent, fails to follow the contest rules or guidelines, or is otherwise inappropriate under the circumstances.” In the event that these rules do not address a particular issue, the Committee will address that issue as it arises. Please address all concerns to ObjectionPoetrySlam@mbabar.org.
- Participants may take their printed submission with them at the conclusion of the event.
- If a participant would like an attorney mentor assigned to them to aid in interpreting the theme, they are encouraged to send an email to ObjectionPoetrySlam@mbabar.org when they sign up.

Simplified List of Rules

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