

This is the 56th Anniversary of The WALKS Foundation's Constitution Essay Contest, which was established in 1962 by two Hartford attorneys, Messrs. Tilney and Taylor, to stimulate the study of the Constitution, its origins, fundamental principles, and the application of the Constitution in vital areas. The position of contest coordinator rotates annually among the History Department Chairs at the five schools; the research topic is selected by the coordinator. Over the years the continuation of this contest has been made possible by funding from the John G. Martin and Daniel Flynn families and later by the law firms of McCarter & English, Robinson & Cole and Murtha Cullina.

PRIZES

The contest is open to history students at the five WALKS schools. The two best research papers are selected by the History Department Chair at each school, and their authors become finalists. The unidentified papers are then read and critiqued by the contest judge, who chooses a winner and two runners-up.

Each finalist receives a Certificate of Merit and a book prize. This year each student will receive a copy of Christopher Collier's book Decision in Philadelphia: The Constitutional Convention of 1787. A cash award in the amount of \$200 is presented to the contest winner. Annually, a silver tray is inscribed with the winner's name and school and is held at the winner's school until the following year's contest dinner.



The WALKS Foundation is a collaboration of five independent secondary schools in Hartford County, organized in 1956 to strengthen and broaden the scope of secondary education.

The WALKS Foundation CONSTITUTION ESSAY CONTEST



Date:
Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Topic:
The Bill of Rights

The motivations behind the Bill of Rights were largely guided by a desire to protect the citizens and the states from the possibility of a tyrannical national government. While the nation has successfully amended the Constitution to protect the people and states, it has also passed amendments that protect the people from the states, and even, in the case of Prohibition, the people from themselves. **This year's essayists were asked to reflect upon the role that the Bill of Rights and other amendments securing individual rights has played in the lives of Connecticut citizens, and the evolution of the relationship between those citizens, the state government, and the national government.**

PARTICIPANTS

U.S. District Judge Alfred V. Covello, 2018 Reader/Judge

Westminster School

William Philip, Headmaster, Director of WALKS

Betsy Heckman, History Department Chair

Finalist, Yuna Lee, 2019

Finalist, Sofia Raymond, 2019

Avon Old Farms School

Kenneth LaRocque, Headmaster, President of WALKS

Art Mehos, History Department Chair

Finalist, Charles "Trey" DiBona, 2019

Finalist, Kai Sulkin, 2019

The Loomis Chaffee School

Sheila Culbert, Head of School, Director of WALKS

Harrison Shure, History Department Chair

Finalist, Ashley Chung, 2019

Finalist, John Patterson, 2019

Kingswood Oxford School

Dennis Bisgaard, Head of School, Director of WALKS

Peter Jones, History Department Chair

Finalist, Jason Meizels, 2019

Finalist, Benjamin Small, 2019

Suffield Academy

Charles Cahn III, Headmaster, Director of WALKS

Bryan Brissette, History Department Chair

Finalist, Molly McGrath, 2019

Finalist, Jackson Pentz, 2019

PROGRAM

5:30 p.m. Reception

Welcome Sheila Culbert

Dinner

Presentation of Awards to Finalists Sheila Culbert

Introduction of Judge Sheila Culbert

Critique/Remarks/Discussion Alfred Covello

THE JUDGE



The United States Senate confirmed Judge Covello on August 12, 1992, for the position of United States District Judge of the District of Connecticut. Judge Covello was a partner in the firm of Bieluch, Barry & Covello from 1960 until 1964 and was a partner in the firm of Gross, Hyde & Williams from 1964 until his appointment to the bench in 1974. Since 1974, he had served the Connecticut Judiciary in a succession of judicial posts: Circuit Court Judge, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Judge of the Superior Court, and Judge of the Appellate Session of the Superior Court. Starting in 1987, he had served on the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut and since 1992 as Administrative Judge for the Connecticut Appellate System.

Judge Covello received his A.B. degree from Harvard University and an LL.B. (Juris Doctor) degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He served on the Benchbook Committee, Rules Committee, and Executive Committee of the Connecticut Superior Court and was on the Board of Pardons from 1987 until 1991. He has undertaken numerous programs from judges at the Institute of Judicial Administration, the National College of the State Judiciary, and other organizations. Judge Covello is an airline transport pilot and flight instructor.