



## Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association

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December 4, 2025

Dear Western PA High School:

The Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association (WPTLA) is pleased to extend an invitation to your school district's seniors to compete for three \$2,000.00 scholarships to be awarded in May 2026. This invitation is being extended to public and private high schools in the Western District of PA. The student whose essay is submitted must reside within the 26 counties that comprise the Western District of PA, as defined by the United States District Court. The scholarships will be awarded based upon an assessment of essays submitted by the participating school districts.

For this year's scholarship essay contest, students will be asked to write an essay arising from the pending U.S. Supreme Ct consolidated cases of Galette v New Jersey Transit Corp and Colt v New Jersey Transit Corp, wherein the highest appellate courts of Pennsylvania and New York have issued conflicting opinions in need of resolution by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Each school district is invited to select one senior student's essay for submission to WPTLA. The essays are to be three to five pages double spaced. The WPTLA Scholarship Essay Committee will select three winning essays from all of those submitted. Each of the three winners will receive the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association's President's Scholarship, consisting of a \$2,000.00 award. Each winner will be invited, along with two guests, to attend the WPTLA's Annual Judiciary Dinner on Friday, May 8, 2026 at Acrisure Stadium in Pittsburgh where the awards will be presented. The winners and their two guests will receive gratis invitations to the Judiciary Dinner where, in addition to the WPTLA member lawyers, there will be many judges from the Western District of Pennsylvania in attendance.

Information packets containing more details and the rules of the Scholarship Essay Contest will be available for distribution upon request. Packets will only be sent by WPTLA to those schools – not students - who respond that they wish to participate in the Contest by completing the enclosed Request for Information form. All correspondence during the contest must be between the representative of the school district and WPTLA, and not between students and WPTLA. **Additionally, the packets of information are for your school only. They are not to be shared with other schools, either by duplication or by posting on your school's website. If you become aware of another school that you think should participate, please contact me and I will handle the details.**

To receive the information packet, please complete the Request for Information form and return it to me before Friday, January 16, 2026. If you will be sending your request via email, please contact your email administrator to accept email messages from [laurie@wptla.org](mailto:laurie@wptla.org).

Information packets will be distributed during the week of January 26, 2026 to those schools who submit a Request for information form. Please make copies for all students who may be interested in entering the contest. **Only one entry will be considered from each school district.** Each school district, therefore, will select its best essay for submission. Your school district's essay must be postmarked/date-stamped and sent on or before March 18, 2026 in order to be considered. Late submissions will be disqualified. *You will be notified via email when your student's essay has been received.*

If you have any questions concerning the Scholarship Essay Contest that are not answered by this letter, please feel free to call or email me for additional information, using the contact information above. We, at WPTLA, are very enthusiastic about this opportunity to recognize outstanding high school seniors and participate in their continuing education.

We look forward to receiving your completed Request for Information form before January 16, 2026.

Very truly yours,

Laurie J. Lacher,  
Executive Director

Enclosure



## Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association's President's Scholarship

### 2026 Essay Contest Request for Information

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Contest Administrator:** (the individual who will oversee the contest in your high school and to whom the information packet will be sent.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the scholarship essay information via:  
First Class Mail \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Not: If you'd like to receive your information packet electronically, please contact your web administrator to permit information from [laurie@wptla.org](mailto:laurie@wptla.org). If no choice is indicated above, the materials will be sent via first class mail. If both choices are indicated, information will be sent via email.*

This completed form is required to receive the essay information packet and must be returned to WPTLA via email or postmarked on or before **Friday, January 16, 2026**.

Your school's essay entry must be postmarked/received on or before **Wednesday, March 18, 2026** to be considered for the contest.

Please email or mail this form to:

**Email Address: [laurie@wptla.org](mailto:laurie@wptla.org)**

**Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association**  
909 Mount Royal Boulevard, Suite 102  
Pittsburgh, PA 15223  
Phone: 412-487-7644

All essay information packets will be distributed during the week of Jan 26, 2026.  
If yours is not received by Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, please call us at 412-487-7644 or email [laurie@wptla.org](mailto:laurie@wptla.org).