

NEWS RELEASE

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335 CHICAGO 8TH GRADERS ENTER LINCOLN ESSAY CONTEST: *GRAND PRIZES TO STUDENTS AT FARNSWORTH, MARSH , OGDEN SCHOOLS*

CHICAGO, ILL. (April 15, 2009)—Chicago 8th graders Jasmine Fediuk, Farnsworth Elementary, Maria Rosales, William B. Ogden School, and Annaliese Trinidad, John L. Marsh Elementary have taken the top prizes in the Chicago Bar Association's (CBA) essay contest to celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, born February 12, 1809. The students took the top prizes in competition with 335 8th grade U. S. History students who submitted 300-word essays on the topic, "If Lincoln were alive today, what would he tell us?"

Three second place prizes were also awarded to Adilene Hurtado, Byrne School, Megan O'Hara, Farnsworth and Laura Padilla, Jane Addams School.

Honorable Mention Awards went to Lubna Ahsan, Solomon Elementary; Camille Bystrowicz, Garvey School; Sergio Castro, Marsh Elementary; Rex Gu, Ogden School; Angie Mapura, Locke School; Shani Orosco, Locke School; Joshua Rincy, Garvey School; Stefanie Socco, Byrne School; Elizabeth Tran, Garvey School; Cynthia Villegas, Washington Elementary; and Jerome Williams, Ogden School.

Josephine Locke Elementary School had the highest number of entrants, 55, submitted by teacher William Bermudez.

Students were invited to explore Lincoln's imagined advice on current topics including the environment, legal system, elections, the military, the economy, young people, foreign affairs, technology or other issues. The editorial board members of the CBA's monthly magazine, the *CBA Record*, acted as judges and considered entries on the basis of content, grammar and spelling, and writing skill.

Prizes for the three Grand Prize winners include a \$125 cash prize; recognition at the CBA's Lincoln Bicentennial Gala With Doris Kearns Goodwin at Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom Saturday, May 2,

and publication of the essays in the *CBA Record* and online at www.chicagobar.org. Second place and Honorable Mention winners will also receive cash prizes and see their essays posted online.

About The Chicago Bar Association

Founded in 1874, the 23,000-member CBA is one of the largest metropolitan bar associations in the country. The CBA is governed by 24 Officers and members of the Board of Managers. Its 55 Practice Committees, 23 Service Committees and 15 Special Committees provide a wide variety of services to the legal profession, the state and federal courts and the public. For more information visit the CBA web site at www.chicagobar.org.

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