<u>Home</u> > <u>Firm</u> > <u>"Celebrate America" Austin Area Creative Writing Contest</u> > Austin Creative Writing Contest Winners

## **Austin Creative Writing Contest Winners**

## FOSTERQUAN, LLP ANNOUNCES AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST AUSTIN AREA WINNERS

Austin, Texas, 5/12/2011- FosterQuan, LLP, with the assistance of the American Immigration Council (AIC), is proud to announce the winners of the fourth annual Austin area "Celebrate America" Creative Writing Contest. This national competition asks area fifth graders to compose a written work on the theme: "Why I Am Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants."

The top three essayists, all 5th grade students at Clayton Elementary, are as follows: <u>Avery Oh</u> (first place), <u>Lindsey Cottle</u> (second place) and <u>Pranathi Bingi</u> (third place).

As the first place winner, Ms. Oh's essay was entered in the American Immigration Council's regional competition. Winners from the regional competition have been entered in the National Contest where they will compete with entries submitted by students in AIC-sponsored Creative Writing Contests from around the country.

The Austin area received 207 entries from eight Austin area schools. The entries were screened first by members of the FosterQuan, LLP Creative Writing team and then by a panel of judges from the community, including two Texas District Judges, writers and broadcasters from National Public Radio and KXAN News (NBC affiliate), as well as administrators from the International Student & Scholar Services at the University of Texas at Austin.

Our Austin winners were honored at a Naturalization Ceremony at Austin Delco Activity Center on Tuesday, April 26, 2011. The Contest winners were presented with their awards, and had the opportunity to read their winning entries in front of 984 new U.S. citizens from 105 different countries taking the oath of citizenship before District Judge Lee Yeakel.

The FosterQuan Creative Writing team also honored Joslin Elementary, who won the participation award for a second year in a row with a 100 percent submission rate.

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ABOUT FOSTERQUAN, LLP – FosterQuan, LLP handles all aspects of immigration, emigration and related international law. The firm specializes in employment-based business immigration and emigration, family-based immigration and naturalization, deportation and removal defense, immigration-related litigation, consular and point of entry assistance, visas for artists and entertainers, foreign investors, deemed exports, and employer sanctions defense.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL – AIC (formerly the American Immigration Law Foundation) is a "tax-exempt, not-for-profit educational, charitable organization...dedicated to increasing public understanding of immigration law and policy and the value of immigration to American society, and to advancing fundamental fairness and due process under the law for immigrants."



Top three essayists meet with FosterQuan Partner, Robert F. Loughran.



Winners of the Austin Creative Contest with District Judge Lee Yeakel.



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2 of 3 5/13/2011 10:51 AM