

2023 TCBA Law Day Speech Topic

Originally enacted in 1902 under another chapter of the law, Title 42, enacted in 1944, is a portion of the United States Code (42 U.S.C.) that was established to address public health and safety. In March of 2020, the Trump administration used Title 42 to regulate border crossings to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Since that time, Title 42 has been used to send immigrants who entered the country illegally back across the border. Since March of 2020, more than two million people have been expelled from the country under this policy. Over the past few years, significant controversy has arisen over the use of this policy to turn away immigrants. The issue has split along party lines with one side focused on protecting citizens of the United States and decreasing the flow of unauthorized immigration across the border, and the other side focused on protecting immigrants seeking asylum or protection in the United States.

Take a look at Huisha – Huisha v. Mayorkas, 27 F.4th 718 (D.C. Cir. 2022). Since the ruling in this case, the Biden administration has repeatedly sought to end the policy and 19 states have joined to oppose repealing it. The policy remains in effect after the Supreme Court granted an emergency appeal on December 27, 2022. The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the case in February and is expected to issue a ruling by the end of June 2023.

Question: Should the court end the Title 42 immigration policy? Explain why or why not. Discuss impacts of continuing or repealing the policy. Your speech may include related topics such as the transportation of immigrants from southern states north or arguments about using Title 42 to address the Fentanyl crisis.

The speech should be approximately five to seven minutes long. There will be a preliminary round on April 20, 2023, at 5:30 pm that will take place at Thurston County Superior Court on the main Thurston County Courthouse Campus (2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia). The top three speeches will advance to a final round on May 2, 2023, at a West Olympia Rotary lunch from noon to 1:30 pm at the Viewpoint Room below Tugboat Annie's Restaurant (2100 West Bay Drive NW, Olympia). The total prize money is \$1,800.00 and will be awarded by the TCBA to the top three speeches (\$800 for 1st place, \$600 for 2nd place, and \$400 for 3rd place) and each of the three winners will receive a plaque from the West Olympia Rotary Club. This speech contest is open to all high school students in Thurston County.

Deadline: You must notify Thurston County Bar Association (TCBA) of your intent to participate in the speech contest no later than 5:00 pm on April 14, 2023. Please email your intent to participate with your name, grade, school, and contact information to tcba.info@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Heather at the Thurston County Bar Association at tcba.info@gmail.com.