



AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
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NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER  
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## **STUDENTS CELEBRATE AMERICA’S TRADITION OF WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS**

BOSTON (May 16) – Three Massachusetts students – one from Chestnut Hill and two from East Sandwich – have earned recognition for their essays celebrating America’s tradition of welcoming immigrants.

The winners of the local “Celebrate America” Creative Writing Contest will be honored Thursday at 5 p.m. during a ceremony at MCLE Conference Center, 10 Winter Place, Boston, hosted by the New England Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).

The three students to be honored are Sammi Hanlon and Grace Smith from Oak Ridge School in East Sandwich and Calista Salpoglou from Mt. Alvernia Academy in Chestnut Hill. Smith won first place for her essay.

The winning essays were selected from 33 entries submitted by fifth grade students from throughout New England. The “Celebrate America” Creative Writing Contest, which is made possible by the generous support of the Murthy NAYAK Foundation, was locally coordinated by the New England AILA chapter to help spread a positive message about the benefits of immigration to America. The local sponsors are the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities; Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP; Seyfarth Shaw LLP; Mintz; WR Immigration; Titcomb’s Bookshop; Friends of Sandwich Public Library; The Law Office of Adrienne J. Vaughan; The Law Office of Carmen V. Codjoe; Araujo & Fisher, LLC; Cambridge Immigration Law, P.C.; and Muslu Law Firm.

“Wow this is so exciting thank you so much! We had a blast with this project and look forward to next year,” said Shaina Myslinski, a teacher at Veritas Prep Charter School.

The winners were selected by a panel of judges from the community: state Senator Eric Lesser, state Senator Julian Cyr, and Erik Jacobs.

Smith will receive \$500 for her first-place win. Salpoglou will receive \$300 for second place, and Hanlon \$200 for third. In addition, Smith’s first-place entry will be entered into the National Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by the American Immigration Council.