

# Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy



LAW DAY: MAY 1, 2007

## Law Day 2007 Outstanding Activity Awards Presentation

Hyatt Regency Century Plaza  
Beverly Hills Room  
Los Angeles, CA  
Friday, February 8, 2008  
12:15 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.



I am very pleased to introduce the winners of the 2007 Law Day Outstanding Activity Awards. The American Bar Association's Law Day Awards Selection Committee selected four Law Day programs to receive the 2007 Law Day Outstanding Activity Awards. Not only did these groups effectively use the 2007

theme in their programming, but they were also able to engage youth and community members alike.

The 2007 Law Day theme, "Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy," emphasized the need for all youth to understand their rights and responsibilities under law and provided them with the knowledge to become effective participants in our nation's civic life.

The future of our nation is in the hands of our young people. We all can play a role in assuring America's future by addressing the needs of youth and focusing on the issues affecting them today. The 2007 Law Day theme prompted us all to listen to the voices of young people and consider how the law can better serve their needs and interests.

In presenting awards to the following programs, we also recognize the efforts of the countless contributors to the hundreds of Law Day efforts conducted each year.

We invite you to submit your entries for the 2008 Law Day Outstanding Activity Awards. Visit [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org) to download the 2008 planning guide and for ideas to help you conduct your Law Day 2008 program, with its theme "The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity."

Thank you for joining us in honoring our award winners and for your own efforts on behalf of Law Day.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. William Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

H. William Allen  
National Law Day Chair



## Outstanding Activity Awards

Throughout the United States, Law Day programs are designed to expand the public's understanding of the rule of law and appreciation for the positive role law plays in our society. The Activity Awards program showcases particularly effective Law Day activities and allows us to share them as models with others. Entries are judged on several criteria, including the extent and effectiveness of partnerships formed among community groups, schools, and legal organizations.

In addition to being awarded certificates at the ABA Mid-Year Meeting, winners receive gift certificates to the Law Day store and are highlighted in the 2008 Law Day Planning Guide.

Submit your entry for the 2008 Law Day Outstanding Activity Awards by June 13. Entry guidelines are available at **[www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org)**.



# Liberty Under Law: Empower

2007 Law Day Outstanding



Students at the Summit Student Advisory Committee meeting on February 6, 2007, teach one another about their communities.

## **Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago**

Chicago, Illinois

With the help of many state and local partners, the CRFC hosted the 2007 Illinois Youth Summit. This year's summit provided 1,000 students at 24 high schools with opportunities to better understand how the law can serve their needs and interests by providing them with a voice in our democracy. In December 2006, students selected three issues for study and action: universal healthcare for youth, online student speech rights, and instituting a military draft. During Spring 2007, they researched these issues and conducted related educational service projects. On April 27, student delegates from each school convened at the Dirksen Federal Building in Chicago with state and federal policymakers to discuss these issues and make policy recommendations.



# ing Youth, Assuring Democracy

## ing Activity Awardees



Attorneys and judges led discussions during the *Dialogue on Youth and Justice*.

### **Houston Bar Association**

Houston, Texas

The HBA commemorated Law Week through a host of activities with the support of numerous community and business partners. Their activities included a Law Day Naturalization Ceremony, in which more than 2,300 new citizens from 100 nations took the oath of allegiance; poster and essay contests for K-8 and high school students respectively; a fun run to raise money for the Center Serving Persons with Mental Retardation; a Lawyers Against Waste Committee's commemoration of Law Day and Earth Day; nearly 60 classroom visits to read and discuss "The Flag We Love" by Pam Munoz Ryan; a Dialogue on Youth and Justice; "Java with the Judges"; speeches to the local law students; and a LegalLine call-in program.



# Liberty Under Law: Empower

2007 Law Day Outstand



The Mock Trial 101 training video showcases students in a statewide tournament.

## **New York State Bar Association**

Albany, New York

The NYSBA initiated a “Youth Empowering Youth” Law Day program with their Youth Service Advocate Program on Law Day 2007. Through this program, the NYSBA and its partners conferred an honorary designation to youth, ages 10 to 18, who identify needs in state legal offices and then develop and execute projects to fill those needs. The second component of the “Youth Empowering Youth” is a mock trial training video “Mock Trial 101,” which showcases New York high school students who participated in the 2007 statewide mock trial competition. The video is being distributed to 500 New York high schools to encourage students to join the mock trial team and train first-time members of those teams.



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Free legal information was provided to community members during the "Ask-a-Lawyer" program on May 2, 2007, at the Palm Beach Mall.

### **Palm Beach County Bar Association**

West Palm Beach, Florida

The Palm Beach County Bar Association worked with the Paralegal Association of Florida, Palm Beach County Chapter, to provide many opportunities for students and other members of the community to better understand the judicial system. They hosted over 25 mock trials and placed more than 20 speakers in the local schools, reaching more than 1,300 students, and sponsored an oratorical contest for high school students. Attorneys reached hundreds of members of the public through an "Ask-a-Lawyer" booth at the local mall, "Dial-a-Lawyer" program, and legal educational clinics. The PBCBA is working with other associations across Florida on the Justice Teaching Initiative, which aims to pair every elementary, middle, and high school in the state with a legal professional.





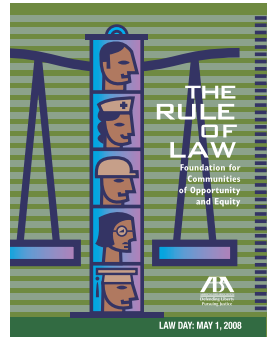
## Celebrating 50 Years of Law Day in 2008!

Fifty years ago President Eisenhower proclaimed Law Day a “day of national dedication to the principle of government under law.” The American Bar Association invites you to celebrate this enduring principle during the 50th anniversary of Law Day.

The theme of Law Day 2008 is “The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity.” Many people do not make the connection between the rule of law and their daily lives—their safety, jobs, health, education and infrastructure. Advancing the rule of law helps achieve an array of public benefits. We all have a stake in the rule of law, and we all can do our part to strengthen it.

The Law Day 2008 theme explores the meaning of the rule of law, while fostering public understanding of the rule of law through discussion on its role in society and explaining how it is essential in sustaining a free society.

Visit [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org) for program ideas and to submit your program on the calendar of events.



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