

# GENESEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION AND GENESEE COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

PRESENTS:

## LAW DAY 2014

### AMERICAN DEMOCRACY and THE RULE OF LAW: WHY EVERY VOTE MATTERS

#### PEOPLE v TAYLOR GRIFFIN

Defendant Taylor Griffin is charged with several crimes including Count I, Obstruction of Justice (MCL 750.505); Count II, Conspiracy to Commit Obstruction of Justice (MCL 750.157a); Count III, Violation of Election Law (MCL 168.764b); Count IV, Violation of Election Law (MCL 168.764b); Count V, Violation of Election Law (MCL 168.759(8)); and Count VI, Violation of Election Law (MCL 168.759(8)).

The prosecution asserts that Defendant Griffin conspired to obstruct justice during a grand jury proceeding by fabricating material evidence, failed to perform his/her duties by hiring an immediate family member of a candidate to collect absentee ballot applications and would not allow the public to inspect the applications and lists as well as forging two absentee ballot applications.

In this trial, the prosecution and defense may call three witnesses each. Each team must determine who their best three witnesses are and present the testimony and evidence through those witnesses. The Defendant is not required to testify and may invoke his or her Fifth Amendment rights.

After both teams rest their cases, a jury of Defendant Griffin's peers will determine whether Defendant Griffin is guilty or not.



**Friday, April 25, 2014**

Masonic Temple and

Genesee County Circuit Court



"Being a defense attorney requires a lot of work and truly a team of law clerks." Denzell D., 2013 Mock Trial Participant.



"I'm glad to participate as a juror in a courtroom. . . . The selection process was so detailed and informative. The attorneys made sure that they were selecting a non-bias group of jurors." Brayden C., 2013 Mock Trial Participant.



"Law Day/ Mock Trial was a fabulous experience and extremely beneficial to me." Christa H., 2013 Mock Trial Participant.

**Mock Trial:** (Grades 9 –12)

**Deadline to Enter:**

**Friday, February 13, 2014**

# LAW DAY

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a counter to the May Day observances in the Soviet Union and its satellites. Law Day provides an opportunity for educating students and citizens of this country about the Constitution and the Law, and the responsibilities of Citizenship.

The Mock Trial is a simulation of a civil or criminal case where high school students participate as attorneys, witnesses, or jurors. The case is tried in a court room, before a Genesee County Circuit Court Judge. This is an experience that cannot be replicated in a classroom. The Mock Trial gives students a first hand exposure to the courts and legal system.

Students learn to:

- Act out of respect for the rule of law and hold others accountable to the same standards.
- Use close and critical reading strategies to read and analyze complex texts, make connections prior to knowledge, draw inferences and determine main idea and supporting details.
- Present a coherent thesis when making an argument, support with evidence, articulate and answer possible objections and present a concise, clear closing.
- Critically examine evidence, thoughtfully consider conflicting claims; and carefully weigh facts and hypothesis.
- Find and organize information, analyze, interpret support interpretations with evidence, critically evaluate, and present information orally and in writing.
- Use deductive and inductive problem-solving skills as appropriate to the problem.
- Examine policy issues in group discussion and debates (clarify issues, consider opposing views, apply democratic values or constitutional principals, anticipate consequences) to make reasoned and informed decisions.
- Analyze events and circumstances from the vantage point of others.

**"Our constitutional democracy requires active citizens. Responsible citizenship requires students to participate actively while learning in the classroom. Instruction should provide activities that engage students so that they simultaneously learn about civic participation while involved in the civic life of their communities, our state, and our nation. The social studies curriculum prepares students to participate in political activities, to serve their commu-**

## LAW DAY 2014

### PEOPLE v TAYLOR GRIFFIN

☐ We would like to participate in Law Day 2014.

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name—Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time of Day to be contacted \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check all that apply:** #Attending

- ☐ Jury Orientation, \_\_\_\_\_  
Masonic Temple, 9:30 a.m.
- ☐ Law Day Lunch, \_\_\_\_\_  
Masonic Temple, 11:30 a.m.. (all participants welcome)
- ☐ Mock Trial, \_\_\_\_\_  
Genesee County Circuit Court, 1:00 p.m.

#### Participating Students, Including Alternates, Jurors

The following number of participants are suggested (not including alternates): two (2) attorneys, three (3) witnesses (defense if assigned defense, and prosecution if assigned prosecution), and at a MINIMUM four (4) jurors. Please remember to email the names of the student participants by March 28, 2014 to [emh@gcbalaw.org](mailto:emh@gcbalaw.org).

#### Attorney Sponsor

Some schools choose their own attorney. Please indicate your preference:

- ☐ Provide our team with an attorney-sponsor.
- ☐ Provide our team with an attorney-sponsor from last year (if available).
- ☐ I have confirmed \_\_\_\_\_ as our attorney sponsor. (If you have not personally confirmed with the attorney, do not complete this portion.)

**Morning Session—Juror Voir Dire:** During the morning session, students will participate in a mock Voir Dire. We will draw names of students by a blind draw. Only students who complete and return the juror questionnaire will be in the blind draw. This is similar to how a real jury is chosen. Please have your students complete a juror questionnaire either based on their information or create a person to play. The deadline for returning juror questionnaires to the GCBA is March 28, 2014. The juror questionnaire can be found on the GCBA website.



**315 E. COURT STREET, FLINT, MI 48502**

**PHONE (810) 232-6000**

**FAX (810) 232-8310**

**[WWW.GCBALAW.ORG](http://WWW.GCBALAW.ORG)**