

LAW DAY POSTER CONTEST

February 21, 2006

Dear Educator:

The Genesee County Bar Association is sponsoring our Annual Law Day Coloring and Poster Contest, **open to all 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students in Genesee County**. This year's theme is "*Separate Branches, Balanced Powers.*" We invite teachers of these grades to encourage participation and include the Coloring/Poster Contest in their lesson plans, which are enclosed.

A poster of a courthouse is enclosed for use by all 2nd and 3rd students for the coloring contest and is also available on our web page at www.gcbalaw.org. We are asking 4th and 5th grade students to submit their own *original* poster designs based upon this year's theme. Some suggestions could include the following:

- ◆ Courthouse
- ◆ White House
- ◆ U.S. Capital
- ◆ Judge
- ◆ Constitution
- ◆ Lawyer
- ◆ Gavel
- ◆ Bill of Rights
- ◆ Statue of Liberty

I have enclosed Coloring/Poster Contest requirements and an entry form for your use. You may make the number of photocopies necessary for all interested teachers and students. **A WINNER FROM EACH GRADE LEVEL WILL BE SELECTED AND WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE.** Winning posters will be displayed at the Genesee County Bar Association's Annual Law Day Luncheon and at the Genesee County Circuit Courthouse. Other submissions will be displayed at the Flint Public Library during May. Posters will not be returned.

ALL POSTERS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006 and should be sent to:

Genesee County Bar Association
315 East Court Street
Flint, MI 48502

We do hope you will lend your support in helping us achieve maximum participation in **Law Day 2006**. I hope you will participate and encourage other teachers to include this very worth while contest in their lesson plans. Should you have any questions regarding the contest, please do not hesitate to contact me at (810) 232-6012.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ramona L. Sain, Executive Director
Genesee County Bar Association

**ENTRY FORM FOR
GENESEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

LAW DAY 2006

COLORING/POSTER CONTEST

(Please print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____

SCHOOL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL PHONE: (____) _____

PRINCIPAL: _____

GRADE: _____ AGE: _____ TEACHER: _____

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

TEACHER'S SIGNATURE: _____

A copy of this sheet MUST accompany each submission to the 2006 Law Day Coloring/Poster Contest. If not, the entry will be disqualified. This information is to appear ONLY on this cover sheet. Attach to back of entry facing out. This poster will not be returned. Posters could be used for publication purposes relating to Law Day 2006.

Deadline: Friday, March 31, 2006

LAW DAY U.S.A. - 2006

GCBA ANNUAL COLORING & POSTER CONTEST INFORMATION

SPONSOR: Genesee County Bar Association

THEME: *"Separate Branches Balanced Powers"*

The purpose of Law Day is education. The GCBA is attempting to solicit a student's conception that will reflect the above theme.

Teachers may explore the theme by using some of these ideas:

Have students explore what "Separate Branches Balanced Powers" really mean. For younger students, it could include concepts such as what is fair and equal. For older students, an overview on what the Founders intended and accomplished in creating a government of separate powers would be appropriate. The Founders were very concerned that the government they established not have all its powers concentrated in the hands of a few officials. They agreed that if *"the right of making and of enforcing the laws is vested in one and the same man, or the same body of men ... there can be no liberty."* The Founders were also concerned that the powers granted to one branch would be balanced by powers granted to others. Congress's power to legislate, for example, is balanced by the executive's power to veto legislation and by the judiciary's power to declare legislation unconstitutional. This system of checks and balances ensures that each branch serves as a constraint on, and is constrained by, the powers of the other branches. This theme enables Law Day planners to show how the branches have their separate spheres and separate powers, but work together for the common good, and is central to building understanding of the rule of law.

ELIGIBILITY: Coloring Contest for 2nd and 3rd graders
Original Poster Design Contest for 4th and 5th graders

REQUIREMENTS: Coloring poster for 2nd and 3rd grade students is enclosed. For 4th and 5th grade student entries must be on an 8 ½ x 11 inch sheet of paper or poster board. The words **Law Day 2006, "Separate Branches Balanced Powers"** should be a part of the overall design. Media and color used in the design is left to the discretion of the student.

Simple designs and bright color are suggested. Judging is based on the student's ability to make a statement about **"Separate Branches Balanced Powers"**

Please fill out the enclosed **entry form** and attach to the back of **each** entry. Posters **will not** be returned.

PRIZE: One winner in each grade level **receives a \$25.00 gift certificate.**

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING: Originality, expression of theme, visual appeal, ability to follow above-listed requirements.

DEADLINE: Postmarked no later than **Friday, March 31, 2006** and should be sent to:
Genesee County Bar Association
315 East Court Street
Flint, Michigan 48502

GENESEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY

2006 marks the 49th annual celebration of Law Day.

In 1957, the American Bar Association (ABA) president, Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C. attorney, envisioned a special day for celebrating our legal system. He promoted the concept of an annual recognition of law, culminating in 1958 with President Dwight D. Eisenhower establishing "Law Day, U.S.A." to strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law. In 1961, May 1st was designated by joint resolution of Congress as the official date for celebrating Law Day U.S.A.

Now, although every year May 1st remains the official day, Law Day often becomes Law Week as the ABA is joined by national organization, state and local Bars, businesses and schools, in conducting thousands of programs celebrating the rule of law in our constitutional democracy.

Each year, Law Day is an opportunity to expand awareness of our laws and justice system and their valuable impact on our lives. More than just a single day to reflect on our legal heritage, it is a call to action that often encompasses weeks of programs and activities. Often it is the culminating event in programs of law-related education in the schools.

The Genesee County Bar Association celebrates Law Day with a Mock Trial involving local high school students. Middle school students participate in an essay contest and elementary students participate in a poster contest. Other activities include Teen & The Law, Senior Outreach and our Annual Law Day Luncheon featuring a prominent guest speaker. Annual awards are also a large part in celebrating Law Day. Each year a Law Day teacher receives the Golden Apple Award from those schools participating in the Mock Trial. The Liberty Bell Award is bestowed upon three local residents who make a difference in the community about a law-related concern and the Genesee County Prosecutor honors a Crime Victim's Advocate of the Year for their work on behalf of victims of crime.

Law Day gives us tools to build citizenship and a shared concept of justice. To maintain the strength and vitality of our legal system, we need to understand the law and believe in its ability to protect our individual rights, settle disputes and bring us together. The vitality of our legal system depends on the rigor with which Americans pursue the rights and duties of citizenship. Through special presentations and educational activities, Law Day can help citizens focus on their rights and responsibilities in this, the oldest democratic government in existence.

Much has changed since President Eisenhower proclaimed the first Law Day, but American's thirst for liberty remains unslaked – and the law remains its best bastion.