

GENESEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION AND GENESEE COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

PRESENT:

LAW DAY 2016

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 courtroom, 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 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 hypotheses.
- 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 principles, 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 communities, and to regulate themselves responsibly.”
Michigan Department of Education

PEOPLE v TRACY KNOTTING

Defendant Tracy Knotting went to O’Conner’s Restaurant with Chris, a friend. Knotting is eighteen years old, a member of Junior ROTC, and a body builder. Knotting and Chris sat down in a booth. A few minutes later, Regan Hollingsworth entered the restaurant with friends, Andy Townsend and Billie Stevens. Stevens sat next to Chris. Knotting told Stevens to leave the seat. Stevens left and sat in another booth with Townsend and Hollingsworth. Defendant’s friends, Shawn Kelly and Terry Rinehart were sitting in another booth. Hollingsworth, Stevens, and Townsend exchanged insults with Kelly and Rinehart. Stevens became disruptive, jumped over the back of the booth and onto the drink stand behind it, and began to yell. Stevens, Hollingsworth, and Townsend were asked to leave the restaurant. Shortly after they left, Kelly and Rinehart exited the restaurant.

Once outside of O’Conner’s Restaurant, Hollingsworth, Stevens, Townsend, Kelly and Rinehart exchanged more words and a fight ensued. Hollingsworth and Stevens attacked Kelly while Townsend and Rinehart began to fight. Watching from inside, Knotting left the restaurant, walked over to Kelly who was being double teamed, and pulled Hollingsworth off of Kelly. Knotting hit Hollingsworth and Hollingsworth fell to the concrete. Knotting then appeared to have kicked Hollingsworth. Hollingsworth did not fight back. Paramedics were able to resuscitate Hollingsworth before taking Hollingsworth to the hospital. While at the hospital, Hollingsworth was placed on life support and died three days later.

Tracy Knotting has been charged with Voluntary Manslaughter.

Friday, April 29, 2016

Masonic Temple and

Genesee County Circuit Court

Mock Trial: (Grades 9 –12)

Deadline to Enter:

Friday, February 12, 2016

LAW DAY 2016

PEOPLE v TRACY KNOTTING

We would like to participate in Law Day 2016

School Name

Teacher Name—Sponsor

Telephone Number Fax Number

Email

Best Time of Day to be contacted

Please check all that apply: #A# ending

Jury Orientation, _____

Masonic Temple, 9:30 a.m.

Law Day Lunch, _____

Masonic Temple, 11:15 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 April 1, 2016 to 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 April 1, 2016. The juror questionnaire can be found on the GCBA website.



PICTURES

The Genesee County Bar Association would like to take pictures of the events throughout the day and use the pictures in a power point presentation during next year's Law Day luncheon and in its publication.

In order to take the pictures of the students and use the pictures in the power point presentation and in Genesee County Bar Association publications, the Genesee County Bar Association requires permission from the parents and teachers of the participating students.

If permission is provided by the parents and teachers, then the Genesee County Bar Association will provide copies of all pictures taken during Law Day 2016 to the schools.



By signing this section, you represent that you have received permission from the parents of the participating Law Day students for the Genesee County Bar Association to take pictures of the participating students and use the pictures in next year's Law Day Power Point presentation and in Genesee County Bar Association publications.

School Name

Teacher Name—Sponsor

Teacher Signature



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