

2017 Law Day Proclamation

“The Fourteenth Amendment: Transforming American Democracy”

WHEREAS Law Day is an occasion of public acknowledgement of our Nation’s and State of Michigan’s heritage of justice, liberty, and equality under the law;

WHEREAS the United States Congress has statutorily designated May 1 as the annual day for commemoration of Law Day;

WHEREAS the American Bar Association has designated the 2017 Law Day theme to be “The Fourteenth Amendment: Transforming American Democracy” in recognition of the numerous contributions to American law and society of one of the most often cited constitutional enactments;

WHEREAS the Fourteenth Amendment in the nearly century and a half that has elapsed since its ratification has greatly expanded the constitutional protections available to all through its clauses guaranteeing due process and equal protection;

Whereas the Fourteenth Amendment has served as the vehicle by which many of the protections in the Bill of Rights have been found to be enforceable against state and local government actions that infringe upon fundamental liberties;

Whereas the Fourteenth Amendment constitutionally defined national citizenship for the first time and guaranteed that the privileges or immunities of United States citizenship would not be denied to any individual citizen;

WHEREAS the Fourteenth Amendment has served as the basis of and inspiration for landmark civil rights legislation and court decisions protecting and advancing the rights of Americans;

WHEREAS promoting public understanding of the roots of our freedom is an important component in the civic education of the citizens of the United States and of the state of Michigan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, Mayor/Governor/City Council Chair/ Etc. of _____, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2017, as Law Day. I call upon the people of the {city/state} to acknowledge the importance of our legal and judicial systems with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and to display the flag of the United States and our city/state in support of this educational observance. I further encourage schools, businesses, media, religious institutions, civic, and service organizations to join members of the bar and bench in commemorating Law Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____, in the year two thousand sixteen.

(Signature)

