

2016 Law Day Proclamation

“Miranda: more than words”

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

WHEREAS Law Day has been annually proclaimed by the President of the United States since Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed the first Law Day on May 1, 1958;

WHEREAS the United States Congress in 1961 encoded the presidential practice into law, statutorily designating May 1 as Law Day;

WHEREAS the year 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of a milestone in legal history, the United States Supreme Court’s landmark 1966 decision in *Miranda v. Arizona*, concluding that statements made by a suspect in police custody are generally inadmissible if the suspect has not been made aware of his or her Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights;

WHEREAS, in response to this decision, law enforcement personnel throughout the country provide a Miranda Warning to suspects in custody apprising them of their right to remain silent, their right to an attorney, and their right to appointed counsel in cases where they cannot afford an attorney;

WHEREAS the Miranda Warning has become one of the nation’s most recognizable legal expressions and a symbol of procedural fairness that represents much more than just the words of the warning;

WHEREAS the criminal justice system still faces many challenges and we must all rededicate ourselves to the great goal of ensuring that it provides fair and equal treatment for all;

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

WHEREAS the American Bar Association has identified the 2016 Law Day theme as “Miranda: More than Words”;

WHEREAS Law Day, MAY 1, 2016, will be commemorated in the state of Michigan

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, Mayor/Governor/City Council Chair/ Etc. of _____, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2016, 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)

