



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

November 7, 2014

Alabama
State Board
of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor
Robert Bentley
President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Al Thompson
District I

FROM: Thomas R. Bice *TRB*
State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters
District II

RE: Law Day 2015 Celebration and Student Competitions

Stephanie Bell
District III

The Alabama State Bar and the Law Day 2015 Committee have established a competition for students in Grades K-12 in celebration of Law Day on May 1, 2015. This year's theme will focus on "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law."

Yvette M.
Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Students can participate in essay, poster, and social media competitions. This is an effective way for students to learn about Law Day and celebrate our freedoms through lessons in Art, Civics, History, English, and Social Studies.

Ella B. Bell
District V
Vice President

Enclosed are copies of materials explaining Law Day 2015 and the competitions sponsored by the Alabama State Bar. We hope that your teachers will consider making Law Day a part of your spring 2015 curriculum and encourage your students to participate.

Charles E. Elliott, M.D.
District VI

The deadline for student entries is TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015, and winners will be announced on or around April 10, 2015. Winners will receive special recognition at a Law Day Awards Ceremony and at a luncheon to be held on May 1st in Montgomery, as well as in local and statewide news releases and in the State Bar's official publication, *The Alabama Lawyer*.

Jeff Newman
District VII
President Pro Tem

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Marcia Daniel, Alabama State Bar Law Day Liaison, at (334) 269-1515, in Montgomery. You may also contact our own Associate General Counsel Juliana Dean, who is a member of the Law Day 2015 Committee, at (334) 242-1899.

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII

Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

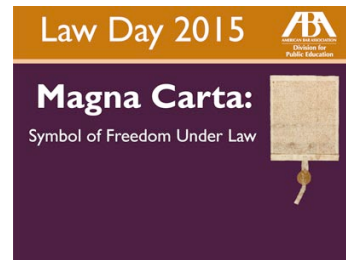
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cc: Curriculum Coordinators
FY15-1001



LAW DAY 2014 COMPETITION AWARDEES

Proudly Representing:

Union Springs Elementary, Union Springs
Vance Elementary, Vance
Mixon Elementary, Ozark
Fort Payne Middle School, Fort Payne
Bear Exploration Center, Montgomery
Williams Intermediate, Pell City
Cherokee High School, Cherokee
Phenix City Intermediate, Phenix City
Central High School, Phenix City
Albertville High School, Albertville
Brewbaker Tech Magnet, Montgomery



On behalf of the Alabama State Bar and the Law Day 2015 Committee, we invite you to join us in celebrating your freedoms as an American on Law Day, May 1, 2015. This year, the American Bar Association's Law Day theme will focus on "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law." **Please share this letter, entry form, rules and ideas with all civics, social studies, art, history and English teachers. Please encourage all students to enter.**

The future of our nation is in the hands of our young people. We all can play a role in assuring America's future by addressing the needs of students and by focusing on the issues affecting them today. All youth need to understand their rights and responsibilities under the law to become effective participants in our nation's civic life.

As part of LAW DAY 2015, students K-12 are invited to participate in the Alabama State Bar's poster, essay and social media (Twitter or Facebook) competitions. This contest has great potential to double as a civics/American history assignment or submission for extra credit. If you choose not to make this a class project, please give the students a chance to participate on their own. Winners will be chosen in the following categories:

STUDENTS: The entries will be presented in three (3) classifications – (i) Poster Category: grades K-3 and 4-6; (ii) Essay Category: grades 7-9 and 10-12; and (iii) Social Media Category: grades 7-12. First, second, and third place winners in the essay category and social media category will receive checks in the amounts of \$200, \$150 and \$100 respectively; winners in the poster category will receive checks in the amounts of \$175, \$125 and \$75 respectively. Each winner also receives a certificate, an Olympic-style medallion, and recognition at a ceremony at the Supreme Court of Alabama on/around May 1, 2015.

TEACHERS: The Alabama State Bar will recognize the teachers of winning entries with a certificate and a \$50 donation to their school's general fund to be used for needed classroom supplies.

For planning purposes, we need to hear from you about your students' interest in submitting entries. If you plan to participate, please return the contact form on the last page of this handout to Marcia Daniel at the Alabama State Bar by March 27, 2015.

DEADLINE: The entry deadline for student work must be received postmarked by TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015 and winners will be announced on/around April 10, 2015. Winners receive special recognition at a Law Day Awards Ceremony and a luncheon to be held on/around May 1st in Montgomery, as well as in local and statewide news releases, and in the Alabama State Bar's official publication, *The Alabama Lawyer*.



LAW DAY 2015

RULES & GUIDELINES

All entries should reflect the theme "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law."

The poster category is for K-3 & 4-6 grades only. Students in grades 7-9 & 10-12 may choose to compete in either the essay or the social media categories.

- **Posters:** should be half of a standard size poster board - approximately 14" x 22" - with all art media acceptable. Entries must be original, with the majority of the work actually done by the student. Be creative! Some theme ideas are:

--No one, no matter how powerful, including those who are sworn to uphold it, is above the law.

--Assess the positive and negative outcomes of doing so and hopefully understand why professions have rules/codes of conduct and penalties for violating them.

--Good behavior and following rules is a sign of being a good citizen or a symbol of enjoying our freedoms.

- **Essays:** length may vary, but *3 to 4 typewritten pages, double-spaced* are suggested, with unlimited citations permitted if properly identified and credited. Some essay suggestions are:

--No one, no matter how powerful, including those who are sworn to uphold it, is above the law.

--Assess the positive and negative outcomes of doing so and hopefully understand why professions have rules/codes of conduct and penalties for violating them.

--Good behavior and following rules is a sign of being a good citizen or a symbol of enjoying our freedoms.

In developing themes for your essays, keep in mind how these concepts have evolved over time. For example the Magna Carta is often recited for this principle: "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned or stripped of his rights or possessions except lawful by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land." We find there the roots of our due process rights and the American legal system's commitment to the principle of the rule of law. The right to petition our government, to trial by jury, and habeas corpus are rooted in the Magna Carta's principles. The law of the land is central to the function of our legal system, and Law Day seeks to recognize enduring symbols that advance that principle.

- **Social Media:**

1. **Twitter Option** – How can Twitter be used as a tool to advance our tradition of the rule of law? List 10 tweets promoting our nation’s protection against arbitrary exercise of powers. Remember, tweets cannot exceed 140 characters and spaces between words count. To submit your tweets, you may:

- (A) List the Tweets on a poster (**no larger than 14” x 22”**), and you may include artwork, citations or supporting materials if you like; or
- (B) Tweet from your own Twitter account, using the hashtag #LawDayAL on all tweets. If tweeting, you must tweet at least ten different tweets of different content (no RTs of previously-tweeted material) and use the competition hashtag. You may link to any support for your tweets that you like, other than Wikipedia.

2. **Facebook** – Create a Facebook page about Americans who have succeeded or endured because of the charter of liberties rooted in the Magna Carta and explain how their experiences demonstrate or advance the principle of the rule of law. Use photographs, discussions, etc. Be creative!

To set up your “Magna Carta” page for the competition, sign into Facebook with your existing Facebook account. Send a friend request to add “Asb Law Day” as a Facebook friend. Go to www.facebook.com/grouphome.php and select the “create group” option. You can call your group whatever you like, but the words “ASB Law Day” must be at the beginning of the title. We have to be your “friend” to include your entry in the competition, so be sure to confirm that “Asb Law Day” is a “member” of your group!

- The Alabama State Bar **must** receive entries postmarked **by Tuesday, March 31, 2015**. Completed social media entries must be uploaded by noon April 3, 2015. All entries must have contact information attached to it.
- State level prizes will consist of checks, in the following amounts: First, second, and third place winners in the poster contest will receive checks in the amounts of \$175, \$125 and \$75 respectively; winners in the essay and social media categories receive checks in the amounts of \$200, \$150 and \$100 respectively.
- All entries submitted in paper form **must** include the **student’s first AND last name, grade, teacher and complete school name AND home address and phone number** on the back of EACH entry. **Please make sure information is complete AND legible**. NOTE: This information is strictly confidential and will be properly destroyed after the contest.
- The Law Day 2015 Committee of the Alabama State Bar shall judge all entries and their determination of winners shall be final.

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| If you have any questions or comments, please contact Marcia Daniel, at 1-800-354-6154 or by email at marcia.daniel@alabar.org . |
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LAW DAY 2015
Please Print

_____ **YES**, we plan/hope to join you in celebrating LAW DAY 2015 by participating in one or more of the following categories (check all that you have an interest in):

- a) _____ statewide **poster** category - **grades K-3**
- b) _____ statewide **poster** category - **grades 4-6**
- c) _____ statewide **essay** category - **grades 7-9**
- d) _____ statewide **essay** category - **grades 10-12**
- e) _____ statewide **social media/facebook** category - **grades 7-12**
- f) _____ statewide **social media/twitter** category - **grades 7-12**

CONTACT PERSON (*person submitting for student; teacher, counselor, principal, parent*)

FULL SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL TELEPHONE _____ **FAX** _____

FULL NAME OF SCHOOL _____

PLEASE MAKE SURE EACH ENTRY HAS (LEGIBLY) STUDENT'S FIRST & LAST NAME, ADDRESS AND CONTACT NUMBER, AS WELL AS THEIR SCHOOL, GRADE AND TEACHER'S NAME.

For contact information purposes, please return this completed form by mail or FAX to:

Marcia Daniel, Alabama State Bar
415 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104
FAX: (334) 517-2127

All poster and essay entries **must** be received at ALABAMA STATE BAR headquarters postmarked by March 31, 2015, or, if participating through social media, entries must be uploaded by noon on April 3, 2015.

For updates and more information, **check the Alabama State Bar LAW DAY page online at www.alabar.org/for-the-public/law-day, or follow along the Facebook Page and/or Twitter feed at #LawDayAL.**