

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2013



May 1, 2013 is Law Day. To celebrate, the Public Outreach Committee of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut will host programs for local students at the federal courthouses in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport.

Law Day is a national day of celebration, officially designated by a joint resolution of Congress in 1961 that focuses on our heritage of liberty under the law. This year's Law Day theme is "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All". On May 1, each seat of court will conduct a trial simulation with area high school students playing the lead roles: 9th Graders from The Law & Government Academy (Adam Johnson, Principal) at the Abraham Ribicoff Federal Building in Hartford, 11th Graders from Central High School (Stephen Anderson, Principal) at the Brien McMahon Federal Building in Bridgeport, and 10th and 11th Graders from Wilbur Cross High School (Peggy Moore, Principal) at the Richard C. Lee U.S. Courthouse in New Haven. The students will participate in a true-to-life trial simulation to foster their understanding of the trial process and the role of our federal courts in resolving disputes. Grade school students will also participate in the celebrations by creating original works of art expressing what the theme means to them. The artwork will be displayed in the federal courthouses. The participating schools are: Grace Academy in Hartford (Matthew Fitzsimons, Principal) and John C. Clark School in Hartford (Williams Chambers, Principal), Cesar A. Batalla Elementary School in Bridgeport (Hector Sanchez, Principal), and MicroSociety Magnet School in New Haven (Rosalyn Bannon, Principal).

This year's Law Day activities are part of a larger effort by the Public Outreach Committee to educate young people and the public about the important role that the Federal Courts, our Judges and lawyers play in preserving the rule of law and promoting the freedoms we have often come to take for granted. Said Chief Judge Alvin W. Thompson, "Our goal is to help students and other members of the public develop a better understanding of the importance of the rule of law in a country that was founded based on the ideals of justice and liberty for all. We also wish to promote a better understanding of the civil and criminal justice systems. We hope our theme for Law Day will prompt students to think about the important relationship between the freedoms they enjoy as the result of growing up in this country and the responsibilities of citizenship."

The trial simulations being used this year involve an issue very familiar to high school students – downloading music. The trial simulations are scripted, and the students will be afforded the opportunity to play meaningful parts, as judge, counsel, witnesses and jurors. Local attorneys and court personnel have volunteered to visit the students at their schools to prepare them for the trial simulation.

The trial simulation programs will be held on May 1 as follows: 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon in Bridgeport, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in New Haven, and 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Hartford. The original works of art will be on display at each seat of court from May 6 through May 31, 2013.

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