



Law Day 2012

No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom

Established in 1957 by the American Bar Association (ABA), Law Day is a national day set aside to celebrate our legal system. Law Day programs are conducted across the country for both youth and adults and are designed to help people understand how law keeps us free and how our legal system strives to achieve justice.

The National Association for Court Management (NACM) is encouraging local courts to work with their local bar in this outreach effort. What’s special about 2012? The 2012 Law Day theme, “No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom,” provides us a unique opportunity to highlight the role of the Judiciary and Court Administration and foster public understanding of the local courts.

The American Bar Association has reached out to Chief Justices throughout the country. Local courts can enhance that effort with outreach in their local jurisdictions.

Law Day is commemorated on May 1. To maximize nationwide impact, the ABA urges organizers to plan public programs on or around this date.

The National Association for Court Management has compiled much of the information found at the following links and organized it into one page. We hope that this assists you in planning for a successful 2012 Law Day program in your court.

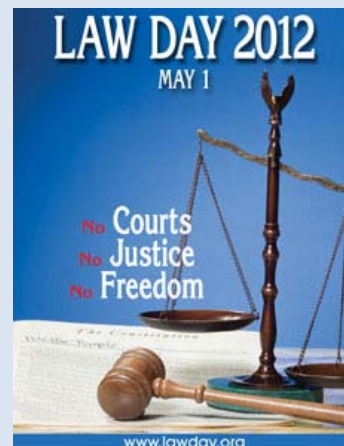
Resources

[Law Day 2012 website](#)

[Law Day 2012 Planning Guide](#)

[Law Day Products for Sale](#)

[Law Day Graphics](#)



Steps to Implement “Law Day”

1. **Talk to your local judges about Law Day**
2. **Establish a local committee as soon as possible:** Include local bar and other justice partners.
 - a. Designate someone who will take the lead on organizing Law Day in your jurisdiction
 - b. Explain Law Day and committee goals to members
3. **During Committee meetings:**
 - a. Identify who the program will target and contact those individuals
 - i. Community at Large
 - ii. Students: Elementary, secondary, or both
 - b. Determine which **programs** will be implemented
 - c. Law Day Ideas:
 - i. Stage a mock trial followed by a discussion on the role of courts in resolving conflicts
 - ii. Create a simulation relating to a key case or moment in court history, incorporating the students as actors
 - iii. Host a debate or a “Jeopardy” style game show on the topic of the courts
 - iv. Online essay contest on a topic relating to the Law Day theme, such as “Why the Courts Matter to Me.”
 - v. Organize an actual or virtual courthouse visit, allowing students to meet with and talk with court personnel.
 - vi. Poster competition
 - vii. Organize a free advice clinic featuring pro-bono attorneys
 - viii. Set up an ITV with Supreme Court/Appellate Court Justices
 - ix. Host a Law Day exhibit showcasing the court-related theme at a local library, community center, school or bookstore
 - d. Identify venue if a formal program will take place
 - i. School
 - ii. Library
 - iii. Court
 - e. If an organized day is set, identify agenda
 - f. Determine resources and budget
4. **Identify and invite speakers**
5. **Prepare agenda and resources for Law Day** – download Law Day logos and artwork to be used in materials. (flyers, agenda, ads, pencils)
6. **Publicize your Law Day**
 - a. Notify the your Judicial Branch Information Office, if applicable
 - b. Communicate efforts to Chief or Presiding Judge, other leaders in the Judicial Branch, and local county/city administrator
 - c. Send invitations to governor, mayor, local politicians, community leaders, judges if applicable.
 - d. Send press releases to ensure coverage at your Law Day event(s)

Post Law Day

1. **Send thank you notes to participants, schools, and speakers**
2. **File notes for later use**