



ESTABLISHED 1879

# DuPage County Bar Association

126 South County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187-4597 • Phone (630) 653-7779 • Fax (630) 653-7870  
Email address: bar@dcba.org • Web Site <http://www.dcba.org> - *Your Legal Link to DuPage County and the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit*

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January 19, 2009

## PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS FROM GRADES 6 THROUGH 12

TO: Social Studies Department  
DuPage County Middle & High Schools

FROM: Chantelle Jackson, Chair, Law Day Committee  
Liz Whitney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director

RE: 2009 Law Day  
*A Legacy of Liberty – Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial*

On behalf of the DuPage County Bar Association, we would like to invite you to participate with us in Law Day 2009.

Law Day U.S.A. was established in 1958, by Presidential proclamation and reaffirmed by joint resolution in Congress in 1961. Law Day is annually celebrated on May 1 of every year as a "special day of celebration by the American people in appreciation of their liberties and to provide an occasion for rededication of the ideals of equity and justice under the laws."

The theme selected for this year's observance is **A Legacy of Liberty – Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial**. 2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, regarded by many as our nation's greatest and most eloquent president. Lincoln, who devoted much of his adult life to the practice of law, was the quintessential American lawyer-president. His background in the law informed both his actions and his oratory.

Once again, the DuPage County Bar Association is marking its Law Day observance by conducting several activities during the weeks surrounding May 1, 2008. **We specifically invite your school to participate in the Mock Trial Presentation on Friday, May 8, 2009.** We will conduct a number of mock trials simultaneously in various courtrooms at the DuPage Judicial Center, 505 N. County Farm Road in



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Wheaton. Each presentation will last for about sixty (60) minutes. We anticipate that start times will stagger from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Space is limited, and participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. All attempts will be made to seat everyone. I encourage you to respond as soon as possible in order to reserve your seating. Attendance at the mock trials will be limited to grades 6 through 12. Students must be accompanied by an adult while in the Judicial Center.

Once again, students will be asked to assist us as lawyers, witnesses and jurors in these proceedings. If your students would like to act as lawyers, please indicate so on the form. We will contact you to make arrangements.

The legal issues presented in the mock trial are sure to be of great interest to your students, and their participation in the process will provide them with a hands-on experience which they are sure to enjoy. We are certain that this exposure to the constitutional principles of justice and the stimulating exchange of ideas between the audience and the participants following the mock trial will be of significant academic and civic benefit.

Kindly respond by returning the attached form to me by March 15, 2009. I will contact your school in writing by Friday, April 3, 2008, in order to confirm your reservation. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Whitney at the DuPage County Bar Association at (630) 653-7779 or [lwhitney@dcb.org](mailto:lwhitney@dcb.org). Please note that the Bar Association is unable to provide transportation necessary for participating in the mock trial program.

Encl.

**MOCK TRIAL RESERVATION FORM**

Liz Whitney  
DuPage County Bar Association  
126 S. County Farm Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
or  
Facsimile (630) 653-7870

We would like to participate in the Mock Trial Program at the DuPage County Judicial Center on **Friday, May 8, 2009**. (Grades 6 through 12 only, please).

SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF STUDENTS & TEACHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

EARLIEST ARRIVAL TIME AT JUDICIAL CENTER: \_\_\_\_\_

MUST DEPART JUDICIAL CENTER BY: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SPECIAL SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN – By March 15, 2009**

***Time & Room Assignments will be based on 1st come 1st served.***

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are some additional details about the **5/8/09** Mock Trial Presentations, which should answer some of your questions.

**SCRIPTS:** I anticipate that the mock trial scripts will be posted to the DuPage County Bar Association's Law Day web site by April 17. See [www.dcba.org/public/law\\_day.htm](http://www.dcba.org/public/law_day.htm). You will need to have the Adobe Acrobat Reader to open this. Most of you probably have the Acrobat Reader; if not, you may download it free of charge at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

**COURTHOUSE USE:** Court will be in session. Students need to remain quiet as they enter the courtroom.

**SECURITY:** All students, teachers and chaperones must clear security at the Judicial Center entrance. Cameras (including cell phones w/cameras!), tools, pocket knives, etc. are not permitted inside the Courthouse. Security personnel will instruct you to return these items to your car or bus. They will not hold them for you. Coats and jackets must be removed. Your students may routinely be asked to remove their belts and place them on the conveyor belt.

**STUDENT PARTICIPATION:** Members of the bar association will serve as judges. For each trial, students will serve as State's Attorney, Defense Attorney, the Master of Ceremonies (introduction), bailiff, witnesses and jurors (I believe the courtrooms have space for 14 in the jury box). They will be able to read from the script.

**BUSES:** FYI, several of you have indicated that the buses will make other runs during the presentations. Due to this year's very tight schedule, the presentations need to be limited to 60-65 minutes. Since there is much activity in the Courthouse, I respectfully suggest that the buses return to pick you up earlier rather than later.

**SUMMONS FOR JURY DUTY:** In the past, some teachers have asked if we had a copy of the summons for jury duty. The DuPage County Jury Commission has a policy to not release this. We do not have any alternatives this year.