



News Release

www.njcourts.com

For immediate release:
May 1, 2013

For more information:
Winnie Comfort
Tammy Kendig
609-292-9580

Law Day Celebration to Be Held at R.J. Hughes Justice Complex

The Judiciary will celebrate Law Day in May with a number of events at the R.J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton and in courthouses around the state.

Videotaped remarks by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner marking the occasion can be viewed beginning Wednesday, May 1 at njcourts.com. In his remarks, Chief Justice Rabner discusses the 2013 Law Day theme, "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All." This year's theme highlights the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

"Dr. King was right when he spoke about the ideals of democracy and equality on which our nation is founded as a promise we can all rely on," says Chief Justice Rabner. "This Law Day in particular, please take time to reflect on Dr. King's inspiring words and President Lincoln's proclamation. And then take a moment to think about what you can do to make sure that we live up to the promise of equality for all."

In addition to vicinage events, a Law Day celebration will be held at the Justice Complex on Friday, May 3. The event will be co-hosted by the Judiciary, the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Office of the Public Defender. Information on the program is available at www.nj.gov/lawday.

Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, will officiate at a naturalization ceremony for 50 new citizens at 10 a.m. in the lobby of the Justice Complex.

At 11 a.m., Deborah Edwards, counsel to Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa, will present awards to the winners of the New Jersey Bar Association's YouTube video contest for middle and high school students.

"This year's Law Day theme gives us the chance to recognize two very important moments in our nation's history," said Edwards. "One hundred and fifty years ago, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation ensured freedom for all. Fifty years ago, Dr. King stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in our nation's capital and dreamed of true equality. Today, we

recognize the lasting changes that have taken place in our country, as well as the ongoing efforts to end racism and prejudice, that help us make good on this nation's promise of equality for all."

New Jersey Public Defender Joseph E. Krakora will speak to youth from the Juvenile Justice Commission about the differences between the juvenile and adult justice systems.

Krakora said, "One of the most important features of our legal system is that all people accused of crimes are entitled to legal representation and receive equal treatment before the law. Law Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many rights and freedoms that we enjoy as Americans."

Reporters and photographers who want to attend the naturalization ceremony or the awards ceremony should call the Judiciary press office at 609-292-9580 to make arrangements.

Vicinages around the state have scheduled Law Day events throughout May. The list of statewide Law Day activities can be found at njcourts.com.

###

Residents from the JJC will attend the naturalization ceremony and the lecture. New Jersey law protects the confidentiality of juveniles placed with the JJC (N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60). Reporters and photographers cannot photograph or interview JJC participants.