

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY MERCER VICINAGE

Mary C. Jacobson
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For immediate release:

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**Mercer Vicinage Law Day 2016 Celebration:
Fifty Years of *Miranda***

The Mercer Vicinage, in cooperation with the Mercer County Bar Association, will hold its annual Law Day celebration on Friday, May 6 at 9 a.m. in Assignment Judge Mary Jacobson's courtroom on the fourth floor of the Mercer County Criminal Courthouse, 400 S. Broad St., Trenton. The presentation will begin with introductory remarks by Judge Jacobson, who will use multimedia tools, including music, to provide background information to the students.

This year, Law Day honors the 50th Anniversary of *Miranda v. Arizona*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case which led to the reading of Miranda rights by law enforcement prior to the interrogation of a suspect in custody.

Staff at the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office and the Mercer County Office of the Public Defender have collaborated on preparing a mock suppression hearing. Trenton Catholic Academy and Our Lady of Sorrows are sending eighth grade classes to Superior Court Judge Pedro Jimenez and Administrative Law Judge Sarah Crowley, who will serve as judges in a hearing in which a recorded confession will be shown to the students and a motion to bar the confession will be argued by two practicing attorneys.

The mock hearing is intended to convey to the students the profound effect the *Miranda* decision has had over the past 50 years on law enforcement and on the rights of individuals who are questioned by police.

Also on the morning of May 6, teams led by judges will be presenting similar programs at several Mercer County middle schools: Reynolds Middle School, Crockett Middle School and Grace Middle School, all in Hamilton; and Timberlane Middle School, Pennington.

The day's programs are designed to teach middle school students about the incidents that led to the *Miranda* decision, to review with them the warnings devised by the Supreme Court to ensure the protection of suspects, and to show a real-world application of those rights through the mock suppression hearing.

Law Day has been celebrated since 1958 in an effort to reflect and to acknowledge the importance of the rule of law and our fundamental beliefs in equality and equal access to justice in our society.

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