

News Release



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Passaic Vicinage Celebrates Law Day 2019

The Passaic Vicinage will hold its Law Day celebration on Friday, May 3 at the William J. Bate Memorial Court House, 71 Hamilton St., Paterson.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. in the plaza with a new citizens program, during which state Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal will administer the oath of citizenship to 25 new citizens from 10 countries. The program is sponsored by the vicinage and the Passaic County Bar Association.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in the jury assembly room on the third floor of the Passaic County Courthouse at 401 Grand St., Paterson.

Those scheduled to speak include Assignment Judge Ernest M. Caposela, Superior Court Judge and program chair Sohail Mohammed, Freeholder Director John W. Bartlett, Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, and bar association President Jared Drill.

The day's events include an interactive panel discussion with students on this year's Law Day theme "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society." Panel members include John Mooney, founding editor of NJ Spotlight; Richard Cowan, reporter for The Record; Talena Lachelle Queen, poet laureate for the city of Paterson; Passaic County Freeholder T. J. Best; Jason Harding, chief of the juvenile unit for the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, and Assistant Deputy Public Defender Lazaro Alvarez.

The vicinage's Law Day activities began in January with poem, poster and video contests for middle and high school students. Students who submitted winning entries were invited to the May 3 celebration.

The winning team in the Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition in April will be awarded the Amos C. Saunders Trophy during a pizza luncheon, where all winners of the three contests also will be recognized for their contributions.

The program is sponsored by the vicinage's Law Day Committee chaired by Superior Court Judge Justine Niccollai. The committee includes staff from the vicinage, bar association and the Passaic Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

Law Day is a national event established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958 as a "day of national dedication to the principals of government and law."

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