

News Release



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For immediate release:
April 26, 2019

Supreme Court Justice Jaynee LaVecchia to Participate in Burlington Vicinage Law Day Panel Discussion

The Burlington Vicinage will hold its annual Law Day celebration on Wednesday, May 1 at 9 a.m. in the historic Olde Courthouse, 120 High St., Mount Holly.

At 9:30 a.m., the vicinage and the Burlington County Bar Association will hold a panel discussion with New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, Judge Jeanne T. Covert, attorney Alexander Shalom of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Assistant Prosecutors Erin Dietz and Jennifer Paszkiewicz. First Assistant Public Defender Kevin Walker will moderate the discussion.

The panel will address the Law Day theme, "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society," in the context of *State of New Jersey v Vonte Skinner*, a Burlington County case that went to the New Jersey Supreme Court and examined the use of rap lyrics in a criminal prosecution. The issue is particularly relevant now, as the U.S. Supreme Court considers taking the case of Jamal Knox, a Pittsburgh rapper known as Mayhem Mal, who was convicted of terroristic threats and witness intimidation for recording violent rap lyrics.

At 9 a.m., Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder will read a proclamation designating May 1 as Law Day. JROTC cadets from Pemberton Township High School will present the colors and students from the Rancocas Valley High School will lead the national anthem. Chief Justice Stuart Rabner's video on this year's theme will be shown.

The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, Law Day was designated as “a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law.”

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