

19th District Court

16077 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, Michigan 48126

Dear Students/Parent(s):

Your 19th District Court has long been an active participant in the American Bar Association's National Law Day observance. This year is no different as the Court and the Dearborn Rotary Club unite once again to conduct a citywide student essay contest.

Dearborn Rotary will provide generous prizes for successful participants from the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. First place winners in each of the four grades will be awarded a \$100.00 Barnes and Noble gift card. Runners-up will receive a \$75.00 gift card and third place finishers will receive a \$50.00 gift card. In addition, one honorable mention recipient from each grade will receive a \$20.00 Barnes and Noble gift card.

The 2015 contest topic: The Magna Carta and its impact on present day law and society today.
Please see the reverse side for more information.

Essays must be original **work of the student**. In order to allow our panel of judges sufficient time to study all entries, we have set **April 1, 2015** as the deadline for submitting essays and completed entry forms (see below) to the 19th District Court. **Entries must be received at the Court no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 1, 2015.**

All award recipients and their families will be invited to an awards ceremony at our courthouse on **Thursday April 30, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** First place winners will get to read their essay to the audience. The Dearborn Rotary will host refreshments at the conclusion of the program.

Sincerely,

Sam A. Salamey
Chief Judge

Mark W. Somers
Chief Judge Pro Tempore

William C. Hultgren
District Judge

Please detach lower portion

Students Name _____ School _____

Grade _____ Male _____ Female _____ (check one please)

I certify that this is the student's original work and grant the 19th District Court full permission to reprint.

Date

Parent Signature

Telephone Number

Mail/deliver to: Court Administration, 19th District Court, 16077 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48126

LAW DAY 2015 Essay Contest

The American Bar Association has chosen the Magna Carta as its 2015 Law Day topic. 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta. The fundamental concepts of liberty that had their beginnings in the Magna Carta were transplanted to the American colonies where they were accepted, refined, and embedded in the instruments of government as well as the thinking of the American people. The concept of the Magna Carta was embraced by the leaders of the American Revolution and is embedded in the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution.

There are two principles expressed in the Magna Carta that resonate to this day:

"No freeman shall be taken, imprisoned, disseised, outlawed, banished, or in any way destroyed, nor will we proceed against or prosecute him, except by lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land."

"To no one will we sell, to no one will we deny or delay, right or justice."

During the American Revolution, Magna Carta served to inspire and justify action in liberty's defense. The colonists believed they were entitled to the same rights as Englishmen, rights guaranteed in Magna Carta. They embedded those rights into the laws of their states and later into the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution ("no person shall... be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.") is a direct descendent of Magna Carta's guarantee of proceedings according to the "law of the land."

Essay Question:

What is the impact of Magna Carta on present day law and society?