

# WHAT IS LAW DAY?

Law Day, held annually on May 1, is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share and also provides an opportunity to recognize the role of courts in a constitutional democracy.

## How did Law Day begin?

**1957:** ABA President Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C. attorney, envisioned a special day for celebrating our legal system.

**1958:** President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law.

**1961:** Congress, by joint resolution, designated May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

## When is Law Day celebrated?

May 1 is the official date, but many celebrations take place before and after that date. Some bar associations and organizations celebrate a Law Week.

## How is Law Day celebrated?

Law Day programs are designed to help people better understand how law protects our liberty and how our legal system strives to achieve justice. Thousands of Law Day programs are conducted each year for youth and adults across the country. In addition, every year since 1958, the president of the United States has issued a Law Day proclamation recognizing the importance of the rule of law.

## Why is a theme selected?

A theme is chosen to provide an opportunity to spotlight a particular aspect of law or the legal process and its impact on our daily lives.

## Who conducts Law Day programs?

Law Day programs are conducted by bar groups, courts, schools, youth groups, and community organizations, to name a few. But any person or group that wants to spread the important message of the rule of law and its critical role in society may put on a program.

