

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT: MAY 1 IS MICHIGAN LAW DAY 2008

LANSING, MI, April 30, 2008 – Urging others in Michigan to “preserve and strengthen the rule of law,” the Michigan Supreme Court has declared May 1, 2008, to be “Michigan Law Day.”

In a March 12 resolution signed by the seven Justices, the Court noted that “All citizens need to understand their rights and responsibilities under the law to become effective participants in our nation’s civic life.”

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first Law Day, which was established in 1958. Washington, D.S. attorney Charles S. Rhyne, then the president of the American Bar Association, advocated a national Law Day for celebrating the American rule of law, in contrast to Communist regimes’ rule by force.

Rhyne, who died in 2003, said in a 2000 Law Day address that President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the first Law Day proclamation despite the opposition of Eisenhower’s Chief of Staff, Sherman Adams, who, Rhyne said, told Eisenhower, “Do not sign that paper praising lawyers!” Eisenhower then responded, “This Proclamation does not contain one word praising lawyers. It praises our constitutional system of government, our great heritage under the rule of law, and asks our people to stand up and praise what they have created. I like it and I am going to sign it.”

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor said that Law Day “serves as a reminder that our system of ordered liberty is dependent on law and on citizens’ respect for it. We agree to be governed by the laws that we ourselves created; that is the essence of democracy.”

As part of Michigan Law Day, the Michigan Supreme Court encourages Michigan citizens to study the legal system. Educational resources include:

- **The Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center.** A gallery of interactive exhibits, the Learning Center is designed for elementary students to adults, and is filled with activities including an introductory video, computer programs, push-button programs and traditional wall text panels. The center also offers a wide variety of educational materials online, including curriculum resources, research materials, summer programs for educators and students, games, and activities. For more information, visit <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/plc/> or call 517-373-7171 to schedule a tour.

- **“CSI: Courts, Speed, and Implications.”** A look at the Michigan legal system, following a real-life case that went all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court. View it at <http://www.mistreamnet.com/videtail.php?who=CSI012508n01>; DVDs of the program may also be ordered by contacting the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency at 734-334-1300.
- **“Astonishing Document: The American Constitution.”** Chief Justice Taylor is interviewed by Michigan Government TV’s Bill Trevarthen about the origins of the U.S. Constitution and its impact on American life. View it online at <http://www.mgtv.org/video.html> or order the video from MGTV at 517-373-4250.
- **Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society.** The society offers a wide range of research and educational materials, including lesson plans for educators and oral histories of former Justices, online at <http://www.micourthistory.org/>.

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