

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

contact: Marcia McBrien | (517) 373-0129

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAW DAY EVENTS, RESOURCES OFFERED BY MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

LANSING, MI, May 1, 2012 – Law Day is an opportunity to learn about, and appreciate, the role of law in American democracy, and the Michigan Supreme Court is doing its part with educational events and resources.

In 1957, American Bar Association President Charles S. Rhyne envisioned a special day to celebrate the U.S. legal system. President Eisenhower established Law Day in 1958 as a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law. In 1968, Congress designated May 1 as Law Day, but many courts hold Law Day events throughout the early part of May.

Among the Court's Law Day activities:

- Student groups from Chippewa Middle School (Okemos), Chandler Park Academy (Harper Woods), Wexford Montessori School (Lansing), and CHESS Homeschool (East Lansing) will visit the [Supreme Court Learning Center](#) today to learn about courts' role in resolving disputes. Each study session features a small claims court simulation and tour of the Learning Center. Guest speakers include Supreme Court Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, Court of Appeals Judge Amy Ronayne Krause, and State Court Administrator Chad C. Schmucker.
- In an online video, Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. discusses how the U.S. Supreme Court's 1896 decision in *Plessy v Ferguson* established the "separate but equal" doctrine that laid the foundation for decades of racial segregation. In Michigan Government Television's "Conversations with Chief Justice Robert Young, Jr.," the chief justice explains how the *Plessy* decision violated the U.S. Constitution and principles of judicial interpretation. See <http://www.mgtv.org/video/interviews/>.
- Justice Stephen J. Markman will be the keynote speaker at the Mecosta-Osceola Bar Association Law Day luncheon today in Big Rapids.
- Justice Brian K. Zahra will speak at Law Day events for the Muskegon County Bar Association (May 4) and the Berrien County Bar Association (May 7).

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