



# 2008 Law Day

THE RULE OF LAW

Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity

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## **LAW DAY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS**

*HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION CELEBRATING LAW WEEK 2008  
WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS THAT FOCUS ON YOUTH*

HOUSTON, TX (April 16, 2008) – The Houston Bar Association (HBA) will present a number of community service and education programs in celebration of Law Day, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. Law Day, May 1, was established by the American Bar Association and by the U.S. Congress to emphasize the rule of law in American society and to educate the public about their rights and responsibilities under the law. The Houston Bar Association's celebration has expanded to include more educational programs each year, and is now known as Law Week. The theme for the 50th Anniversary celebration of Law Day is "The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity."

### **2008 Law Week Events**

- On April 30, the HBA will participate in a Law Day Naturalization Ceremony at M.O. Campbell Center, 1856 Aldine Bender Road. HBA President Tommy Proctor will welcome new citizens and the HBA will distribute information about legal and community services.
- On May 1, Houston Bar Association President Tommy Proctor, Harris County District Clerk Theresa Chang and Harris County District Judge Ken Wise will pass out pocket-sized copies of the U.S. Constitution to all citizens who report for jury duty at the Harris County Jury Assembly Room at One Congress Plaza.
- The HBA Law Week Committee and the HBA Lawyers for Literacy Committee will read the book, "Duck for President" by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin, to elementary students in 100 elementary schools throughout Harris County from April 21 through May 16. The book, published by Scholastic, Inc., educates young students about the electoral process through the progressive candidacies of Duck for president of the farm, governor of the state, and finally, president of the United States. Districts hosting presentations include Aldine, Cy-Fair, Deer Park, Fort Bend, Galena Park, Houston, Katy, Klein, Pasadena, Sheldon and Spring Branch. For a list of schools, please contact Tara Shockley at 713-759-1133 or taras@hba.org.
- Judges and attorneys will present the program "Dialogue on the Rule of Law" at 15 high schools in the Houston area. These interactive presentations will focus on defining the rule of law and what is necessary to achieve it. Discussion will include looking at the rule of law in history, as well as the way it is portrayed in literature and movies. Schools that will host

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Dialogue presentations include Austin High School, Chavez High School, Elsie High School, High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Houston Heights High School, Klein Forest High School, Langham Creek High School, Memorial High School, Monarch School, Pasadena Memorial High School, Scarborough High School, School of Choice, Waltrip High School and Westside High School. To cover a Dialogue program, please contact Tara Shockley at 713-759-1133 or [taras@hba.org](mailto:taras@hba.org).

- The Houston Young Lawyers Association (HYLA) will host its annual Law Day Luncheon on May 2, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel. downtown. The keynote speaker will be Randy Burton, director of Justice for Children. The HBA will present awards to the winners of a Law Day Poster Contest sponsored in elementary and middle schools and a Law Day Essay Contest and a Law Day Video Contest among high school students. The HYLA will present its Liberty Bell Award to a non-attorney for outstanding community service and its Young Lawyer of the Year Award.
- On May 7, HBA volunteers will provide an extended LegalLine program. The public can call 713-759-1133 from 12:00 noon until 9 p.m. and speak to an attorney for simple legal advice, the answers to legal questions or referrals to other legal resources.
- Law Day Poster and Essay contest entries will be displayed in the lobbies of several downtown office building and courthouses during Law Week.

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*The Houston Bar Association is an 11,800 member non-profit professional association for attorneys, providing education and service programs for both the legal profession and the community.*