

# Law Day 2010 Fact Sheet

**What Is Law Day?** A national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that all Americans share.

## **How Did Law Day Begin?**

1957—American Bar Association (ABA) President Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C., attorney, envisions a special day for celebrating our legal system.

1958—President Dwight D. Eisenhower establishes Law Day to strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law.

1961—May 1 is designated by joint resolution of Congress as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

**When Is It Celebrated?** May 1 is the official date, but in fact Law Day can be celebrated on any date. It often becomes Law Week (or Weeks) as Law Day planners reach out to a broad segment of the community. Law Day also provides an opportunity to recognize the role of courts in our democracy.

**How Is It Celebrated?** Law Day programs are designed to help people understand how law keeps us free and how our legal system strives to achieve justice. Law Day is celebrated in schools across the country and in programs designed to reach the adult public. Thousands of programs are conducted every year.

**Who Puts On Law Day?** Law Day is often planned by state and local bar associations, courts, and schools in communities throughout the country. Often these groups work together to reach the largest possible audience.

**What Is the Law Day 2010 Theme?** Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges.

**Why Is This Theme Important?** During the last decade our country's national security, morale, and economics have been greatly affected by events that have occurred in our country and abroad and these events have greatly affected the laws that have been passed in the last decade. When laws are made in the United States the principles and standards of the Constitution continue to affect how our laws are crafted; however, as we become increasingly globalized, as technology advances, and as we continue to adapt to national and global changes, adherence to the traditions of the Constitution may become difficult or may not be possible.

What are the challenges that lie ahead as our nation enters the 21<sup>st</sup> century and what role will the law play in addressing these issues? Will we be able to hold onto the ideals and traditions of law that our country was founded upon?