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**Law Day Celebration &
Naturalization Ceremony
May 1, 2025**

Presented by
Washington County Bar Association &
Washington County Bar Foundation
In conjunction with the
Observer-Reporter Newspaper

Law Day was established in 1958
by President Eisenhower to strengthen
our great heritage of liberty, justice, and
equality under the law.



Law Day

Call to Order

Deana M. Stephens, President, WCBA

*Please stand for the Presentation of the American flag,
Pledge of Allegiance, & National Anthem*

Colors & Pledge

Boy Scout Troop #1005

National Anthem

Tess Ann Salzman

Local Court Admission & Re-Affirmation of Oath

Movant: Thomas A. Steele, Esq.

Officiant: Hon. Gary Gilman, President Judge

Oath: "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support,
obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and
the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will
discharge the duties of my office with fidelity, as well to
the court as to the client, that I will use no falsehood,
nor delay the cause of any person for lucre or malice."

Law Day Remarks & Awards

Remarks: Hon. Gary Gilman, President Judge

Contest Awards presented by Rachel Lozosky, Chair,
WCBA Public Relations & Services Committee

Liberty Bell presented by Brian V. Gorman

Dessert Reception

Please join us in Judges' Law Library

*Law Day Contest participants are welcome to take
their entries home with them at the end of the evening.*

Liberty Bell Award Recipients

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| 1967: Observer Publishing Co.; Valley Independent; Washington Broadcasting Co.; Frank E. Aber; Matthew J. Mazlick | 2006: Lucy Northrop, Observer-Reporter/Newspapers in Education Program |
| 1968: Vernon R. Blystone; William B. Stout; Louis A. Sheehan; Brownsville Publishing Corp. | 2007: Christine Bitz, Educator |
| 1969: Joseph Feconda; Homer M. Lowry; Dr. George F. Hart; WESA Radio | 2008: Dr. Joseph DiSarro, W&J College Pre-Law Advisor |
| 1970: Rev. Rensselaer Broekhuizen; Ernest Abernathy, M.D., Deputy Coroner; Hazen Neill | 2009: PA Sen. J. Barry Stout |
| 1971: Jane M. Warren; Richard Hull | 2010: Christine Weller, Court Administrator |
| 1972: Rabbi David J. Matzner, Beth Israel Synagogue; Clarence Lofstead, Holocaust Survivor | 2011: Edward Strawn, Wash Co Correctional Facility |
| 1973: John V. B. Hana, James Roupe | 2012: Kathleen L. Sabol, WCBA Executive Director |
| 1974: Janice Trifaro, Ronald Barshick | 2013: J. Bracken Burns, former Wash. Co. Commissioner |
| 1975: John H. Baker | 2014: Judy Hughes, League of Women Voters |
| 1976: Gilda E. Kerns | 2015: Barb Gibbs, Clerk of Courts; Phyllis Ranko Matheny, Prothonotary |
| 1977: Alberta R. Covert | 2016: Mary Ellen Jutca, Educator/Mock Trial Coach |
| 1978: J. Edward Madvay | 2017: Paul Cech, Educator |
| 1979: Josephine T. Schiamanna, WCBA Executive Director | 2018: Sgt. Dave Richards, North Strabane Twp. Police Dept. |
| 1980: Farrell Jackson | 2019: Vivian C. Osowski, Child Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Kids |
| 1981: Sgt. Robert Dugan | 2020: Larry Spahr, Dir. of Elections |
| 1982: Mary L. Weaver | 2021: Chief Timothy Sheehan, California Police Dept., CASD Resource Officer (posthumously) |
| 1983: Catherine M. Lindley | 2023: Common Ground Teen Center; Dr. Mary Jo Podgurski, Academy for Adolescent Health |
| 1984: Jane M. Fulcher | 2024: Diana Irey Vaughan, former Wash. Co. Commissioner; Correctional Facility volunteer |
| 1985: Caroline Gillespie | 2025: Brandi Miller, Literacy Council of SWPA |
| 1986: Gene A. Fetty | |
| 1987: Barbara Gibbs, Clyde J. Tracanna | |
| 1988: James A. Fazzoni, Sheriff | |
| 1989: Theresa Muto | |
| 1990: Merrell E. Holman | |
| 1992: Mel Blount, Founder, Youth Home | |
| 1997: Charles E. Stacey, Ringgold School Dist. Superintendent | |
| 1998: Rick Futrell, City Mission | |
| 1999: Dwayne Durham, PA State Trooper | |
| 2000: PA State Police Troop B | |
| 2001: Dorothy Schwerha, Law Librarian | |
| 2002: Larry O. Maggi, Sheriff; and Michelle Robinson-Ritter, Domestic Violence Services of SWPA | |
| 2003: Dean Kenefick, Probation Officer | |
| 2004: Louis Waller, NAACP | |
| 2005: Pat O'Brien, Boy Scouts | |

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2025 Liberty Bell Award

Brandi Miller

The “Liberty Bell” Award is awarded to non-lawyers for outstanding service in promoting a better understanding of our form of government, encouraging respect for law and the courts, stimulating individual responsibilities, contributing to the effective functioning of government and developing an appreciation of the rule of law.



Through her work as Executive Director of the Literacy Council of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Brandi Miller created a free tutoring program for individuals preparing for the U.S. Naturalization Test and has been a driving force in securing educational resources for the area's immigrant community. Her commitment to public service leads her to serve on the boards of the U.S. Selective Service, Washington County Human Trafficking Advisory Board, Washington County STOP Advisory Board, and CYS Advisory Board. Her earlier work experience has included Marketing and Sales Manager at a local credit union, and Senior District Director with The Boy Scouts of America. She graduated from Norwin Senior High School and Seton Hill University in Greensburg. She is an active volunteer with many local organizations, including the Rotary Club of Washington and St. James Parish. She currently resides in Coal Center with her husband Shane, their four-year old twins Morgan and Eoin, and their weimaraner Harley

Law Day Contest Awards

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This year’s Law Day Contest resulted in 79 bookmarks, 30 editorial essays, 41 “Peep” dioramas, 28 creative arts entries, and 5 billboards. Thank you to all who participated!

Law Day Contest Judges

Rebecca Bowman, Bracken Burns, Brian Gorman, Joyce Hatfield-Wise, MariAnn Hathaway, Rachel Lozosky, Todd Pappasergi, Kathy Sabol, Deana Stephens, Gary Stout, and Steve Warren.



Bookmarks, Grades 2-5

<i>Award</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>School</i>
First Place	Nino Chadwick	5	JFK Catholic
Second Place	Alexandra Holmes	4	Borland Manor
Third Place	Olivia Chen	5	McMurray Elementary
Fourth Place	Josie Karlovich	5	McMurray Elementary
Fifth Place	Lilly Liddle	5	JFK Catholic
Sixth Place	Alivia Lacock	2	JFK Catholic

Honorable Mention:

	Corey McBride	4	McMurray Elementary
	Caitlyn Seibert	4	McMurray Elementary
	Tenley Caporal	5	McMurray Elementary
	Lisa Sawyer	5	JFK Catholic
	Sadie Molla	4	JFK Catholic
	Blakeley Caruso	4	JFK Catholic
	Isabelle Stephens	3	Allison Park Elementary

Billboards, Grades 9-12

<i>Award</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>School</i>
First Place	Samantha Sywassink	9	McGuffey High School
Second Place	Persaius Helmich	10	McGuffey High School
Third Place	Lily Messina	9	McGuffey High School

Peeps Dioramas, Grades 6-12

<i>Award</i>	<i>Diorama Title</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>School</i>
First Place	“We the Peeple: The Signing of the Constitution”	Norah Shen & Emma Vash	8	California Area School District
Second Place	“Naturalization Ceremony”	Gentry Smith & Nariah Howell	7	California Area School District
Third Place	“Peeps Vote”	Maddie Pampani, Julie Mosher, & Ava Saghy	7	California Area School District
Honorable Mention	“One Peep Can Make a Difference”	Hannah Lesnock & Ella Wolfe	7	McGuffey Middle School
Honorable Mention	“We Fight For One!”	Quinn Bosnic	7	JFK Catholic
Honorable Mention	“13 Colonies”	Macie Huba & Maggie Vig	8	California Area School District
Honorable Mention	“The Peeper’s Court”	Olivia Stockton	6	Calif Academy of Learning Charter School

Essays, Grades 6-12

<i>Award</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>School</i>
First Place	Miranda Weaver	10	McGuffey High School
Second Place	Evie Young	10	McGuffey High School
Third Place	Lauriane Yang	7	Canon McMillan Middle School
Honorable Mention	Tess Liddle	7	JFK Catholic

Creative Arts, Grades 6-12

<i>Award</i>	<i>Diorama Title</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>School</i>
First Place	“From Many Roots, One Nation’s Tree Grows” (Poem)	Mario Stiehler	7	JFK Catholic
Second Place	“Together Beneath Our Shared Sun” (Poem)	Danielle Bova	8	JFK Catholic
Third Place	“Keeping America as One” (Drawing)	Sophia Sawyer	7	JFK Catholic
Honorable Mention	“We the People” (Drawing)	George Enzerra	6	JFK Catholic
Honorable Mention	“As One.” (Drawing)	Mason Rice	8	Ringgold Middle School
Honorable Mention	“Mosaic of Many”	Family & Consumer Science Class—8th grade	8	Ringgold Middle School

Citizenship Project

Recognizing a project that promotes democracy, human rights, the law, and/or responsibilities and roles of citizens.

“Unite for Service” ~ Trinity Leadership Committee
Trinity High School (donating \$250 prize to “Hiller Helpers”)

Washington County Bar Foundation, Inc.

CIVIC EDUCATION • COMMUNITY GIVING • ACCESS TO JUSTICE

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