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NEWS – Law Day Contest Winners Announced

April 21, 2017. This year's annual Law Day Contest resulted in 460 bookmarks, 42 editorial essays, 13 "Peep" dioramas, and 35 creative arts entries from students of a dozen different school districts and parochial schools, as well as students who entered independently and those who are homeschooled. This year's theme was "The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy." Law Day U.S.A. is celebrated nationally on May 1 and was established in 1958 by President Eisenhower to "strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law."

Contest Awards will be presented at the public Law Day Celebration at 6:00pm on Monday, May 1, 2017, at the Washington County Courthouse. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Law Day activities and awards are coordinated by the Washington County Bar Foundation, the Bar Association's Public Relations and Education Committee, and the Observer Publishing Company. The Law Day contest entries were judged by attorneys Rebecca Bowman, Lisa Buday, Dawn Haber, and Rachel Lozosky; and Observer-Reporter representative Bridget Vilencia.

Receiving this year's "Liberty Bell" Award is Paul Cech, teacher at Beth-Center High School. The award is presented annually by the Bar Association to a non-lawyer 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.

The 2017 Law Day Citizenship Project Award will go to the Trinity Leadership Team for their year-long "Our School, Our Community, Our Home" project. Trinity High School seniors who comprise the core of the Leadership Team are Michael Golaski, Mackenzie Halliday, Quinton McIlvaine, Jacob Metts and Cameron White. The students will donate \$100 of their prize money to Domestic Violence Services of SWPA and use the remaining \$150 for seed money for next year's Team's charitable projects.

The Law Day Essay Contest for Grades 6-12 first place winner is Emma Malinak, grade 8, Trinity. Second place, Amanda Keister, grade 10, Washington. Third place, Natalie Cummings, grade 12, Canon-McMillan. Honorable Mentions, Robert McElheny, grad 7, JFK; Claudia Capelli, grade 7 Trinity; Carly Croft, grade 11, Trinity; Ian McNaught, grade 10, Washington; and Ethan Iams, grade 7, Trinity.

The Law Day Creative Arts Contest for Grades 6-12 first place winner is Mia Altman, grade 7, JFK. Second place, Rayne Elling, 6 grade, Trinity. Third place was a group entry from Sophia Curry, Madyson Frazee, and Elizabeth Raimondi, grade 8, JFK. Honorable mentions are Madeline Mounts, grade 11, California; La-Tayah Mull, grade 6, Washington; and Emma Ostrom, grade 10, Peters.

The Law Day "Peeps" Diorama Contest for Grades 6-12 first place winner is Canonsburg resident Hunter Smith, grade 9, The Linsley School. Second place, Desaree Collins, grade 10, Washington. Third place, Elijah Jones, grade 7, homeschooled. Honorable mentions are Gabrielle Leadbitter, grade 6, JFK; a group entry from Samuel Nicolella, Elizabeth Volz and Cael Nicolella, grade 8, JFK; and Jenna Sargent, grade 9, Ringgold.

In the Law Day Bookmark Contest for Grades 2-5 first place winner is Emma Ledger, grade 4, Trinity South. Second place, Kayla Bonnett, grade 5, Trinity West. Third place, Tyler Johnson, grade 5, Trinity South. Fourth place, Mae Coburn, grade 3, Joe Walker. Fifth Place, Ben Ondrejko, grade 5, JFK. Sixth place, Deedra Closser, grade 5, Burgettstown. Seventh place, Sydney McWreath, grade 5, JFK. Honorable mentions are Caden Anderson, grade 4, Burgettstown; Lilly Batson, grade 4, Trinity South; Gunnar Bjornson, grade 5, St. Francis; Ava Jenkins, grade 3, St. Francis; Rylee Perry, grade 5, Trinity West; Katelyn Rodgers, grade 5, Burgettstown; and Nicolas Stiehler, grade 5, JFK.

Winning entries will be displayed at the Courthouse the afternoon of May 1 and featured in a special Law Day insert to be published in the Observer-Reporter on Sunday, April 30. The insert will be sent on Tuesday, May 2, to all schools that participate in the Newspapers in Education program. For more information about Law Day and other law-related public education programs offered by the Washington County Bar Association, call 724.225.6710 or by email at wcba@washcobar.org.