



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OBSERVES LAW DAY

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a day of national dedication to the principles of government. In 1961, by a joint Congressional resolution, May 1st was designated as the official date for celebrating Law Day in the U.S.

"Law Day activities are very important to the 19th Judicial Circuit. Celebration of the rule of law and respect for the law is vital to our democratic way of life, the stability of government, and society," said Chief Judge Jay W. Ukena. Chief Judge Ukena invited all Lake County students to participate in Law Day 2018; this year's theme was "Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom."

The U.S. Constitution created our government with three separate branches, each serving a different purpose: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. It gave each branch certain powers and outlined how they interact with each other. This separation and balancing of powers is our framework for freedom, but we the people must act to make sure that our constitutional democracy continues to preserve our liberties and protect our rights.

On Friday, April 27th, approximately 300 Lake County high school students attended a morning of law-related sessions supported by the Judges of Lake County, the State's Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Sheriff's Department, the Coroner's Office, the Lake County Regional Office of Education, and the Lake County Bar Association. The three 40-minute assemblies included: a CSI task force presentation; a sentencing; and an improved session on social media; suspect interrogation; a visit to the Coroner's facility; and a Jail tour.

At 12:30 pm, an awards ceremony was held in the Jury Assembly Room. Chief Judge Jay Ukena, together with several other Lake County Judges, greeted and welcomed all Law Day contest winners. First, second, and third place winners in grades kindergarten through eighth grades were recognized for their winning entries of the various Law Day contests: coloring, poster, and essay. The winning students had the opportunity to have their picture taken with the Judges and were presented with a certificate of achievement and gift card donated by the Lake County Bar Foundation.

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