

TO: Educators
FROM: Mary C. John, Esq.; Law Week Chairperson
DATE: February 2008
RE: 50th Anniversary of Law Day!!

THEME: THE RULE OF LAW: FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY AND EQUITY

The Onondaga County Bar Association cordially invites your school to participate in the 50th Anniversary of Law Day by participating in Law week activities during the week of May 5, 2008 to May 9, 2008. This year's Law Week theme, "The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity" is not just a matter of concern to lawyers and judges; it affects people from all walks of life and in all fields of endeavor: clergy, teachers, workers, physicians, journalists, engineers, architects, public safety officials, military leaders, human rights advocates, environmentalists, and others. It is essential that all of us care about the rule of law and strive to be active participants in the civic life of our community. By initiating dialogue on the rule of law during this Law Day 2008 celebration, together we will learn about the principles and values that characterize the rule of law and how it matters in their everyday lives of Americans and others throughout the world.

THE FOLLOWING ARE A LIST OF ACTIVITIES THAT YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP GO TO www.onbar.org

GRADE 12 - Student Shadow Programs

1. Attorney Shadow Program: Detailed information about the Law Week Attorney Shadow Program can be found at www.onbar.org. In short, this program enables **high school seniors** to spend a half day with a Bar Association attorney member to learn about the practice of Law. (Deadline: March 31, 2008)

2. Legal Assistant Shadow Program: Detailed information about the Law Week Legal Assistant Shadow Program can be found at www.onbar.org. In short, this program enables **high school seniors** to spend a half day with a Bar Association legal assistant member to learn about a career as a legal assistant. (Deadline: March 31, 2008)

GRADES 8-12 - Student Information Sessions

1. The Road to Becoming a Lawyer, What Every Student Should Know: As part of the Law Week festivities, the Onondaga County Bar Association will arrange information sessions in local schools for all students in grades 8-12 interested in pursuing law as a career. A local attorney will conduct an informative presentation regarding the road to becoming a lawyer. All social studies, government, business law, and civics educators are encouraged to devote one class period. Areas to be covered include: high school and college pre-law preparatory activities, the law school experience, and the actual practice of law. If you would like a lawyer to speak to your class please complete the sign up form at www.onbar.org. (Deadline: March 30, 2008)

2. Becoming a Legal Assistant: This program sponsored by the OCBA's Legal Assistants Committee offers speakers to discuss the Legal Assistant profession. If you wish to have a legal assistant speak to a class, please complete the sign up form at www.onbar.org. (Deadline: March 31, 2008)

GRADES 9-12

1. Law Day Celebration: The Law Day Ceremony will be held Monday, May 5, 2008, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Onondaga County Courthouse. We invite you to send up to eight high school students and a teacher to be our guests at the celebrations. Your representatives will attend the ceremony, participate in a courthouse tour or observe a Small Claims Court Hearing, have an opportunity to meet with judges, legislators and local attorneys, and attend the Law Day Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Oncenter (\$20 per person). Please make your reservation for the Luncheon by **Friday, April 25, 2008**.

2. NEW PROGRAM!! Dialogue on the Rule of Law: allow a lawyer to come into your classroom and engage your students in stimulating and substantive dialogues on issues of law and justice. This year's dialogue program focuses on what the Rule of Law is, how it has been challenged or defended throughout history and how it is reflected in popular culture. If interested, please complete the sign up form at www.onbar.org. (Deadline: March 21, 2008)

GRADES 5-8

1. Courthouse Tours: Tours of the Onondaga County Courthouse, the Federal Courthouse and the Syracuse City Court will be conducted May 5-9 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. These tours are for grades 5 through 8 only. To be eligible for a tour, you must complete the sign up form at www.onbar.org by **March 31, 2008**. Because of the limited number of tour slots, the flyer/entry form will not guarantee a tour. After the form is received, we will contact you to make tour arrangements

CONTESTS:

Please see detailed flyers for complete details regarding the Poster, Photography, Essay and, new this year, Video Contest at www.onbar.org.

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS
TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S LAW WEEK PROGRAMS
AND HELP US CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAW DAY!**