

Realizing The Dream: Equality for All

PRESENTED BY THE CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH



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ACTIVITY NARRATIVE

The Connecticut Judicial Branch sponsored several events to celebrate this year's Law Day theme, *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*, and to promote a better understanding of the importance of the rule of law in our democracy. As Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers said, "When you go to court in America, you are entering with the expectation of justice for all. It is part of the social compact our courts have with anyone entering our doors, and we must ensure that we uphold our end of the bargain if this great democracy is to survive."

As is its tradition, the Connecticut Judicial Branch developed innovative programs to expand public awareness of the rule of law and to highlight the 2013 Law Day theme. The Branch involved targeted audiences such as students, attorneys and the public, and forged partnerships with community groups, schools and the legal community. Furthermore, the impact of these activities extended well beyond the actual events. For example, the Judicial Branch has forged a relationship with the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut.

Among the many Law Day activities that occurred were ceremonies at courthouses throughout the state, in partnership with local bar associations. Additionally, as is the Branch's practice every May, state judges visited with high school students and talked with them about the importance of the rule of law, the role of the courts and the Law Day theme. This year, 30 Superior Court judges and Supreme Court justices addressed more than 1,600 students at 28 different schools. Finally, Law Day ceremonies were held in the state's Supreme and Appellate Courts. It should be noted that several media organizations, including local TV stations and several of the state's newspapers, covered these events.

To comply with the requirements of this submission, the rest of the narrative will focus on the Supreme Court's Law Day ceremony; however, it should be noted that the Judicial Branch's website contains information about all of the 2013 Law Day activities, including videos, speeches and photographs.

This year, the Supreme Court honored the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut with its Law Day Award. Students from Capitol Preparatory Magnet School, Bloomfield High School and Madina Academy, the state's only Muslim school, attended the Supreme Court's ceremony.

(CONTINUED)

ACTIVITY NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)

In welcoming students, attorneys and members of the community who attended the ceremony, Chief Justice Rogers said: “It is entirely fitting that we are here today to recognize this year’s theme of —*Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*. In fact, I think it’s fair to say that the 2013 Law Day theme goes to the heart of what our court system is all about—which is access to justice for all, regardless of whether you worship in a synagogue, a cathedral or a mosque.”

The Supreme Court chose the Coalition to receive the award “for educating the public on Islam and Muslims at a time when there has been an increase in hate crimes and discrimination directed toward Muslims. Through the Coalition’s leadership and many initiatives, it successfully embodies this year’s Law Day theme, *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*.”

In his keynote address, Attorney Refai Arefin, vice president of the Coalition said,

“The question many ask is why should they care about Islamophobia and why should Muslims care about stereotyping against others groups. As Rev. Dr. King pointed out in his letter from a Birmingham Jail, ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’ Equality under the law is only meaningful if it extends to all people, however vilified they are.” Attorney Arefin also spoke of his organization’s efforts to educate the public about Islam and Muslims.

Next, Attorney Kimberly A. Knox, president-elect of the Connecticut Bar Association, said, “The promise of equality under the law is what has made the United States a beacon to other nations. It is a pledge clearly set forth in the Declaration of Independence and in the opening words of the Preamble of the Constitution, *We the People*. It is, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, the proposition to which our nation is dedicated.”

Chief Justice Rogers concluded the ceremony with these words: “Our courts are here to make sure equal rights are protected and we will do that. We are bolstered, however, by the initiatives and hard work of community groups, such as our honoree today, that seek to break down barriers through respect for one another and the belief that the rule of law is alive and well.”



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPREME COURT**

Chambers of
CHASE T. ROGERS
Chief Justice

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-757-2120

February 22, 2013

Ms. Aida Mansoor
Muslim Coalition of Connecticut
705 North Mountain Road
Suite E102
Newington, CT 06111

Dear Ms. Mansoor:

As you know, the Connecticut Supreme Court would like to honor the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut as part of its annual Law Day Ceremony, which will take place on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at 10 a.m. in the Supreme Court building located at 231 Capitol Avenue in Hartford. Additionally, the Court has invited a member of the Coalition to serve as the keynote speaker.

This year's Law Day theme is *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*. The American Bar Association's website states: "Law Day, May 1, 2013, will provide an opportunity to explore the movement for civil and human rights in America and the impact it has had in promoting the ideal of equality under the law. It will provide a forum for reflecting on the work that remains to be done in rectifying injustice, eliminating all forms of discrimination, and putting an end to human trafficking and other violations of our basic human rights." The Court would like to recognize the Coalition's work to educate the public about Islam and Muslims and to assist those in need.

Attorney Melissa A. Farley, Executive Director of the Judicial Branch's External Affairs Division, will be in contact with you regarding details of the program. If you would like to contact her, she may be reached at (860) 757-2270, or by e-mail at melissa.farley@jud.ct.gov.

On behalf of the Supreme Court, thank you for agreeing to be a part of our Law Day celebration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chase T. Rogers".

Chase T. Rogers
Chief Justice



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

rhonda.hebert@jud.ct.gov

Rhonda Stearley-Hebert
Manager of Communications

*231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2013

**MUSLIM COALITION OF CONNECTICUT TO BE HONORED
AT SUPREME COURT'S 2013 LAW DAY CEREMONY**

The Connecticut Supreme Court will observe the 2013 Law Day theme of *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All* by honoring the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut on Wednesday, May 1, in the Supreme Court courtroom, located at 231 Capitol Ave in Hartford.

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m., and Attorney Refai Arefin, the coalition's vice president, will provide the keynote address. Other speakers include Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers and Attorney Kimberly A. Knox, president-elect of the Connecticut Bar Association.

Located in Newington, the nonprofit coalition's mission is "to promote shared values of mutual respect and social responsibility through educational and outreach activities." It recently presented a program for employees of the Connecticut Judicial Branch and has worked with the Branch's Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency.

Cameras are permitted. For information, contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.

LAW DAY *Ceremony*



SUPREME COURT COURTROOM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2013
10 A.M.



Honoree

MUSLIM COALITION OF CONNECTICUT

For educating the public on
Islam and Muslims at a time
when there has been an increase
in hate crimes and discrimination
directed toward Muslims.

Through the Coalition's leadership
and many initiatives, it successfully
embodies this year's Law Day theme,
Realizing the Dream: Equality for All.



Program

WELCOME & REMARKS

Hon. Chase T. Rogers
Chief Justice
Connecticut Supreme Court

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Attorney Refai Arefin
Vice President, Muslim Coalition of Connecticut

REMARKS

Attorney Kimberly A. Knox
President-Elect
Connecticut Bar Association

PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE MUSLIM COALITION OF CONNECTICUT

Hon. Chase T. Rogers
Chief Justice
Connecticut Supreme Court

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Hon. Chase T. Rogers
Chief Justice
Connecticut Supreme Court

SPEAKERS BUREAU – E-MAIL TO JUDGES

Dear Colleagues,

As Law Day approaches, I wanted to ask you, as in past years, if you would be willing to speak to students from your Connecticut high school alma mater. If you did not graduate from a high school in Connecticut, you may want to consider speaking to students from a high school in Connecticut. Please contact Alison Zawadski, Court Planner, at 860-757-2270 or at external.affairs@jud.ct.gov, if you would like to participate in this Law Day activity.

This year's Law Day theme is *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*, which, according to the American Bar Association, "provides an opportunity to explore the movement for civil and human rights in America and the impact it has had in promoting the ideal of equality under the law." The American Bar Association has made available on its website information that may be useful to you in discussing this topic with students. The External Affairs Division can provide you with these materials. I also think that it would be appropriate to discuss, generally, our role as judges.

Thank you for your willingness to talk with students about these important issues.

Thank you,
Chase

E-MAIL TO EDUCATORS

Dear Educator:

As you may know, state law requires students to complete at least a one-half credit course in civics and American government before graduating from high school. To assist you in complying with this statute, we offer many resources – from having a judge visit your school to arranging a teacher professional day at your local courthouse. Please find attached a brochure that describes these resources, which are available to you free of charge.

I also wanted to let you know that judges are available to speak to your students as part of Law Day, which will be celebrated in May. This year's Law Day theme is *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*, which, provides an opportunity to explore the movement for civil and human rights in America and the impact it has had in promoting the ideal of equality under the law. To arrange for a judge to speak to your class, or for more information about any of the programs that we sponsor, please contact External Affairs at (860) 757-2270 or via e-mail at external.affairs@jud.ct.gov.

It benefits us all when young people understand government, and you work hard to ensure that they do. On behalf of the Judicial Branch, thank you for your efforts.

Regards,
The Judicial Branch's External Affairs Division

SPEAKERS BUREAU

In Connecticut, it is tradition that every May, state judges talk to high school students about the importance of the rule of law, the role of the courts and the Law Day theme. Many judges return to their alma maters and judges who hadn't grown up in Connecticut visit schools in the towns in which they live and work. This year, thirty Superior Court judges and Supreme Court justices addressed more than 1,600 students at twenty-eight different schools, vocational and extracurricular programs:

Judge James Abrams – Hamden High School
Judge Robert Brunetti – Terryville High School
Judge Henry Cohn – New Britain High School
Judge Leeland Cole-Chu – Ellis Technical High School
Judge Emmet L. Cosgrove – New London County Bar Association Ceremonies
Judge Juliette Crawford – JFK High School
Judge John Danaher – Hall High School
Judge Angelo dos Santos – Windham High School
Justice Dennis Eveleigh – Westhill High School
Judge Brian Fischer – Boys and Girls Club
Judge Robert Genuario – Greenwich High School
Judge Karen Goodrow – East Lyme High School
Judge Mark Gould – Stonington High School
Judge Barbara Jongbloed – Polson Middle School
Judge Maria Kahn – Cheshire High School
Judge Paul Matasavage – Wilby High School
Justice Andrew McDonald – Stamford High School
Judge Maurice Mosley – Bucks Hill School
Judge John Nazzaro – Academy for Law and Social Justice
Judge John Newson – Norwich Free Academy
Justice Flemming Norcott – Classical Magnet School
Judge Angela Robinson – Academy for Law and Social Justice
Judge Jane Scholl – Farmington High School
Judge Carl Schuman – Global Communications Academy
Judge Kenneth Shluger – Waterford High School
Judge Mary Sommer – Bassick High School
Judge Lois Tanzer – Hall High School
Judge M. Nawaz Wahla – East Catholic High School
Judge Dawne Westbrook – Glastonbury High School
Judge Robin Wilson – New Haven Job Corps



State of Connecticut

Judicial Branch



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Connecticut Judicial Branch

Law Day 2013

Realizing the Dream: Equality for All

According to the American Bar Association, the 2013 theme for Law Day highlights the promise of equality under the law which has made America a beacon to other nations. It is a pledge clearly set forth in the Declaration of Independence and in the opening words of the Preamble of the Constitution, "We the People." It is, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, the proposition to which our nation is dedicated.

Law Day 2013 was celebrated in the following courthouses:

- [Supreme Court Ceremony](#)
- [Appellate Court Ceremony](#)
- [Hartford Judicial District Ceremony](#)
- [Litchfield Judicial District Ceremony](#)
- [Stamford Judicial District Ceremony](#)
- [Windham Judicial District Ceremony](#)

Judges who participated in Law Day 2013 around the state

In Connecticut, it is tradition that every May, state judges talk to high school students about the importance of the rule of law, the role of the courts and the Law Day theme. Many judges return to their alma maters and judges who hadn't grown up in Connecticut visit schools in the towns in which they live and work. This year, thirty Superior Court judges and Supreme Court justices addressed more than 1,600 students at twenty-eight different schools, vocational and extracurricular programs:

- Judge James Abrams- Hamden High School
- Judge Robert Brunetti – Terryville High School
- Judge Henry Cohn – New Britain High School
- Judge Leeland Cole-Chu – Ellis Technical High School
- Judge Emmet L. Cosgrove- New London County Bar Association Ceremonies
- Judge Juliette Crawford – JFK High School
- Judge John Danaher – Hall High School
- Judge Angelo dos Santos- Windham High School
- Justice Dennis Eveleigh – Westhill High School
- Judge Brian Fischer- Boys and Girls Club
- Judge Robert Genuario- Greenwich High School
- Judge Karen Goodrow – East Lyme High School
- Judge Mark Gould – Stonington High School
- Judge Barbara Jongbloed – Polson Middle School
- Judge Maria Kahn – Cheshire High School
- Judge Paul Matasavage- Wilby High School
- Justice Andrew McDonald – Stamford High School
- Judge Maurice Mosley – Bucks Hill School
- Judge John Nazzaro- Academy for Law and Social Justice
- Judge John Newson – Norwich Free Academy
- Justice Flemming Norcott- Classical Magnet School
- Judge Angela Robinson -Academy for Law and Social Justice
- Judge Jane Scholl- Farmington High School
- Judge Carl Schuman – Global Communications Academy
- Judge Kenneth Shluger- Waterford High School
- Judge Mary Sommer- Bassick High School
- Judge Lois Tanzer – Hall High School
- Judge M. Nawaz Wahla – East Catholic High School
- Judge Dawne Westbrook- Glastonbury High School
- Judge Robin Wilson – New Haven Job Corps

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NEWS CLIPPINGS

Index of News Articles – Law Day 2013

News Organization	Article headline	Date Posted
Associated Press story ran in following publications:		
Beaumont Enterprise.com	Conn. Supreme Court to honor Muslim Coalition	April 28, 2013
Boston.com	Conn. Supreme Court to honor Muslim Coalition	April 28, 2013
CBS 3 Springfield	Conn. Supreme Court to honor Muslim Coalition	April 28, 2013
CT Post	Conn. Supreme Court to honor Muslim Coalition	April 28, 2013
Darien News	Conn. Supreme Court to honor Muslim Coalition	April 28, 2013
News Daily.com	State Supreme Court to honor Muslim Coalition of Connecticut on Law Day	April 29, 2013
Stamford Advocate	Conn. Supreme Court to honor Muslim Coalition	April 28, 2013
Westport News	Conn. Supreme Court to honor Muslim Coalition	April 28, 2013
The Connecticut Bar Association submitted the following:		
The Hartford Courant	Students Celebrate Law Day with Historic Readings at Appellate Court	May 12, 2013
	Bridgeport (Park City Magnet), Cromwell Middle, Eastford Elementary, Duffy Elementary (West Hartford), Trumbull Elementary Schools	
Stories appeared at the following websites/publications:		
Connecticut Bar Association	Connecticut Bar Association's 2013 Law Day Celebration	May 1, 2013
Connecticut Law Tribune	Law Day Ceremony Honors Muslim Coalition	May 3, 2013
Greater Bridgeport Bar Association (GBBA)	Law Day Celebration held on April 30 th	March 13, 2013
National Center for State Courts	Connecticut Supreme Court Law Day Program	April, 2013
News-Times (Danbury)	Law Day: Awards and education mix	May 3, 2013
Norwich Bulletin	Children's advocate honored during Law Day event	May 3, 2013
The Day (New London)	Legal community recognizes Norwich Pastor on Law Day	May 4, 2013
West Hartford News blogspot	West Hartford student joins Law Day celebration at Appellate Court	May 2, 2013

Conn. Supreme Court to honor Muslim Coalition

Updated 8:21 pm, Sunday, April 28, 2013

Page 1 of 1

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The state [Supreme Court](#) will be honoring the [Muslim Coalition of Connecticut](#) for its public education and outreach efforts.

A ceremony is planned Wednesday at the Supreme Court in Hartford as part of the court's annual observance of Law Day. Law Day's theme this year is "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All."

Coalition Vice President [Refai Arefin](#) and [Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers](#) are scheduled to speak.

The Newington-based group was founded in 2004 by local mosque leaders who worried about the actions of extremists unfairly stereotyping Muslims. Its goals include educating the public on Islam and Muslims and living Islam through social activism, including volunteering for charitable causes.

Law Day was established in 1958 by President [Dwight Eisenhower](#) to mark the country's commitment to the rule of law.

READER SUBMITTED:

Bridgeport Students Celebrate Law Day With Historic Readings At Appellate Court

May 14, 2013 Jessica Pace, Connecticut Bar Association, West Hartford

Park City Magnet School students E-Nijae Strobe-Sims, Leslie Moncada, Ricardo Gayle, Roberto Melendez, and Mariah Young-Arrington participated in the Law Day celebration hosted by the Connecticut Bar Association and the Connecticut Appellate Court in Hartford, on May 2. This year's theme, declared by the American Bar Association, was "Realizing the Dream, Equality for All." The program featured a dramatic reading of important documents in United States history regarding the right of equal protection under the law by students from across the state. These documents included portions of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Fourteen and Nineteenth Amendment of the United State Constitution.

The Honorable Alexandra DiPentima, chief Appellate Court judge, welcomed attendees to the 2013 Law Day celebration and described the ceremony as "bringing the bench, bar, and public together to celebrate the rule of law." In reflection on the planning of this year's Law Day, DiPentima stated that the "words from our founding documents paired with the power from our next generation was the best way to celebrate."

Connecticut Bar Association President Barry C. Hawkins supported Judge DiPentima's sentiment with his remarks to the students prior to their readings: "We are in gratitude to all you students for your dedication, your talents, and the efforts that you are about to partake in making this important ceremony a success." Superior Court Judge Susan B. Handy then introduced the ceremony's moderator, Attorney Eric Parker, morning co-anchor for WFSB Channel 3 News.

E-Nijae, Leslie, Ricardo, Roberto and Mariah were among 20 students from across the state selected by the Connecticut Bar Association's Civics Education Committee to participate in this year's Law Day celebration.

After the readings, Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill presented citations to each of the students.

The Connecticut Bar Association is a membership organization serving Connecticut attorneys and the legal profession by working to advance the principles of justice, the practice of law, the image of the profession, and the public understanding of the law.

READER SUBMITTED:

Eastford Students Celebrate Law Day With Historic Readings At Appellate Court

May 14, 2013 Jessica Pace, Connecticut Bar Association, West Hartford

Eastford Elementary School students Madelyn Grube, Ely Driscoll, Olivia Duncan, Nikolas Jakubowski, Silas Bunnell, Colin Glenn, Jake Owens, Dylan Grube, and Emma Kellermann participated in the Law Day celebration hosted by the Connecticut Bar Association and the Connecticut Appellate Court in Hartford, on May 2. This year's theme, declared by the American Bar Association, was "Realizing the Dream, Equality for All." The program featured a dramatic reading of important documents in United States history regarding the right of equal protection under the law by students from across the state. These documents included portions of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Fourteen and Nineteenth Amendment of the United State Constitution.

The Honorable Alexandra DiPentima, chief Appellate Court judge, welcomed attendees to the 2013 Law Day celebration and described the ceremony as "bringing the bench, bar, and public together to celebrate the rule of law." In reflection on the planning of this year's Law Day, DiPentima stated that the "words from our founding documents paired with the power from our next generation was the best way to celebrate."

Connecticut Bar Association President Barry C. Hawkins supported Judge DiPentima's sentiment with his remarks to the students prior to their readings: "We are in gratitude to all you students for your dedication, your talents, and the efforts that you are about to partake in making this important ceremony a success." Superior Court Judge Susan B. Handy then introduced the ceremony's moderator, Attorney Eric Parker, morning co-anchor for WFSB Channel 3 News.

Madelyn, Ely, Olivia, Nikolas, Silas, Colin, Jake, Dylan, and Emma were among 20 students from across the state selected by the Connecticut Bar Association's Civics Education Committee to participate in this year's Law Day celebration.

After the readings, Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill presented citations to each of the students.

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READER SUBMITTED:

West Hartford Student Celebrates Law Day With Historic Readings At Appellate Court

May 12, 2013 Jessica Pace, Connecticut Bar Association, West Hartford

Duffy Elementary School student Katie Simpson participated in the Law Day celebration hosted by the Connecticut Bar Association and the Connecticut Appellate Court in Hartford, on May 2. This year's theme, declared by the American Bar Association, was "Realizing the Dream, Equality for All." The program featured a dramatic reading of important documents in United States history regarding the right of equal protection under the law by students from across the state. These documents included portions of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Fourteen and Nineteenth Amendment of the United State Constitution.

The Honorable Alexandra DiPentima, chief Appellate Court judge, welcomed attendees to the 2013 Law Day celebration and described the ceremony as "bringing the bench, bar, and public together to celebrate the rule of law." In reflection on the planning of this year's Law Day, DiPentima stated that the "words from our founding documents paired with the power from our next generation was the best way to celebrate."

Connecticut Bar Association President Barry C. Hawkins supported Judge DiPentima's sentiment with his remarks to the students prior to their readings: "We are in gratitude to all you students for your dedication, your talents, and the efforts that you are about to partake in making this important ceremony a success." Superior Court Judge Susan B. Handy then introduced the ceremony's moderator, Attorney Eric Parker, morning co-anchor for WFSB Channel 3 News.

Katie was among 20 students from across the state selected by the Connecticut Bar Association's Civics Education Committee to participate in this year's Law Day celebration.

After the readings, Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill presented citations to each of the students.

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READER SUBMITTED:

Trumbull Student Celebrates Law Day With Historic Readings At Appellate Court

May 14, 2013 Jessica Pace, Connecticut Bar Association, West Hartford

Frenchtown Elementary School student Gabriel Morgia participated in the Law Day celebration hosted by the Connecticut Bar Association and the Connecticut Appellate Court in Hartford, on May 2. This year's theme, declared by the American Bar Association, was "Realizing the Dream, Equality for All." The program featured a dramatic reading of important documents in United States history regarding the right of equal protection under the law by students from across the state. These documents included portions of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Fourteen and Nineteenth Amendment of the United State Constitution.

The Honorable Alexandra DiPentima, chief Appellate Court judge, welcomed attendees to the 2013 Law Day celebration and described the ceremony as "bringing the bench, bar, and public together to celebrate the rule of law." In reflection on the planning of this year's Law Day, DiPentima stated that the "words from our founding documents paired with the power from our next generation was the best way to celebrate."

Connecticut Bar Association President Barry C. Hawkins supported Judge DiPentima's sentiment with his remarks to the students prior to their readings: "We are in gratitude to all you students for your dedication, your talents, and the efforts that you are about to partake in making this important ceremony a success." Superior Court Judge Susan B. Handy then introduced the ceremony's moderator, Attorney Eric Parker, morning co-anchor for WFSB Channel 3 News.

Gabriel was among 20 students from across the state selected by the Connecticut Bar Association's Civics Education Committee to participate in this year's Law Day celebration.

After the readings, Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill presented citations to each of the students.

The Connecticut Bar Association is a membership organization serving Connecticut attorneys and the legal profession by working to advance the principles of justice, the practice of law, the image of the profession, and the public understanding of the law.



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Connecticut Bar Association's 2013 Law Day Celebration

The Connecticut Bar Association's 2013 Law Day celebration will be hosted by the Connecticut Appellate Court on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

SEARCH CLE

This year's theme, declared by the American Bar Association, is "Realizing the Dream, Equality for All." Our program will consist of participation by the Chief Judge Alexandra D. DiPentima of the Connecticut Appellate Court, CBA President Barry C. Hawkins, Superior Court Judge Susan B. Handy, moderated by Attorney Eric Parker, Morning Co-Anchors, WFSB Channel 3 News.

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Students from Connecticut schools will provide a dramatic reading of excerpts from important documents in United States history such as Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a Dream Speech." The Declaration of Independence, The Emancipation Proclamation, and the Fourteen and Nineteen Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

On the Job Hunt?
Start searching for
legal jobs now.
**The New CBA Online
Career Center.**

Anyone interested in attending this year's Law Day ceremony is encouraged to arrive at the Appellate Court by 9:45 a.m.

Law Day Ceremony Honors Muslim Coalition

KAREN ALI

The Connecticut Law Tribune

05-03-2013

Members of the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut spend a great deal of time educating the legal community about Islam, promoting diversity and working to dispel stereotypes. The coalition held a special event for state Judicial Branch employees recently, in which they hosted a three-hour educational talk on the Muslim religion.

Last week, the group's outreach efforts were recognized by court administrators. During a Law Day ceremony in the state Supreme Court chambers, the coalition and its president, Aida Mansoor, were honored for helping promote "Equality for All," which was the theme of Law Day ceremonies across the country.

Refai Arefin, vice president of the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut, and a Newington solo practitioner, gave the keynote address at the event, which was attended by lawyers, students and the Supreme Court justices.

In his speech, he talked about how the organization has "taken a stance unequivocally against all forms of terrorism, by denouncing terrorism within our community."

The Newington-based non-profit organization's mission is to promote values of mutual respect and social responsibility through educational outreach activities.

Besides raising awareness about Islam, the coalition also does a great deal of community service, which is something their faith requires them to do. The coalition does not provide advocacy in the legal system. If someone needs help, they refer them to other organizations, including the ACLU and the Connecticut chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

They maintain a speaker's bureau and on the first Saturday of every month, the group organizes a lunch at Mercy Shelter in Hartford. They also help Habitat for Humanity build homes and have taken part in the Food-share Walk Against Hunger.

"We organized the state interfaith gathering entitled United in Peace, Healing with Hope on the 10th anniversary of 9/11, which drew over a thousand people from all walks of life as well as mosque open houses throughout the state," Arefin said. "Most recently, the Muslim Coalition has taken a strong stance against the heinous loss of life at the Boston Marathon."

The coalition was honored for educating "the public on Islam and Muslims at a time when there has been an increase in hate crimes and discrimination toward Muslims. Through the Coalition's leadership and many initiatives, it successfully embodies this year's Law Day theme, Realizing the Dream: Equality for All," according to the program to the ceremony.

Mansoor's husband, founding President Reza Mansoor, said in an interview after the ceremony that Islam is a "welcoming faith."

“That’s our guiding force,” Reza Mansoor, who is a cardiologist, said.

Mansoor said that a great deal of what his group does is community service, because that is an important element of their faith.

Mansoor said that other Muslim communities in the state, including the Albanian-American Muslims in Waterbury, have expressed an interest in following suit and creating volunteer programs. “We want to export it to other communities,” Mansoor said.

Mansoor said that his organization and other faith-based communities have to lead during times of tragedy. Unfortunately, there is a great deal of fear about Islam, he said. “We try to educate people about the sensitivities, to understand Muslims better.”

“We have gone out of our way to shine a light on the fear mongering that is going on,” Mansoor said.

The educational talks that the coalition frequently gives consist of a short intro to Islam, a pre-test for the participants to write their perceptions, and then a post-test after the talk. Then, the talk centers on confronting misperceptions of Islam. One misperception is that the American women who wear Muslim clothing are doing it because they are forced to. But Reza Mansoor said that his wife, Aida Mansoor, wears the clothing of her own will. “It’s her decision to wear it,” Reza Mansoor said. She doesn’t want to be treated as an object, he said.

Reza Mansoor said that in some parts of the world women may be forced to wear Islamic clothing, but it doesn’t happen in America.

The organization launched its outreach to the courts last year, when it invited state judges and their families to a coalition banquet in Hartford in 2012. “That helped start the process of outreach,” Mansoor said.

Mansoor said that the organization’s outreach, including the talk to the judicial department staff, helps even sensitive and educated people understand Islam better.

Judicial department spokesman Melissa Farley, who attended the judicial branch talk, said she “found it to be enormously interesting and educational.”

In an interview after the Law Day ceremony, Aida Mansoor said that stereotypes do persist. She pointed out that there are many Muslim actors who can’t get jobs in acting unless they play the part of a terrorist.

Mansoor, who gives frequent talks about Islam to various groups, said that her talk to the judicial department was important because they can spread understanding about Islam. The more knowledge, the better. “We are American and we are proud to be American.”

After the event, Arefin said that he thinks the justices and judges in Connecticut are predominantly familiar with the Islamic faith. “In other states it can be a challenge,” Arefin said. “Connecticut has always been at the forefront of expanding rights rather than restricting them.”

Arefin thinks one reason the judges in Connecticut are more tolerant of Muslims in court settings is because they are vetted well during the judicial selection process. “In Connecticut, judges come at it with an open mind,” Arefin said.

Kimberly Knox, President-Elect of the Connecticut Bar Association, spoke at the ceremony about the “opportunity for freedom and equality under our laws.” But at the same time, Knox said, “we have much work to do before we can realize a future in which all citizens have the opportunity to realize the dream of liberty and equality.”•



LAW DAY CELEBRATION HELD ON APRIL 30TH SPONSORED BY WEBSTER BANK.

Posted on March 13, 2013

The GBBA Law Day celebration took place at a luncheon held at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn on April 30, 2013. Justice Flemming L. Norcott, Jr. was our keynote speaker. This year's Law Day theme is: "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All." Winners of our Law Day Essay contest were:

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL: PEDRO DA SILVA, CYNTHIA VU AND AMAODO OGUAGHA

HALLEN SCHOOL: TYLIA MYERS

The Hallen School Chorus delighted us all with the singing of "God Bless America". Click on the link to hear the Chorus. <http://youtu.be/HI-SkayVdiw>

Announced at the ceremony was the winner of the Liberty Bell Award: JAMES E.O'DONNELL. Attorney O'Donnell will receive the award at the GBBA Annual Dinner Meeting on May 14, 2013.



Law Day 2013

Discover how organizations are commemorating Law Day 2013 on May 1.

Connecticut Supreme Court Law Day Program

The Connecticut Supreme Court will celebrate Law Day on May 1, 2013, by honoring the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut. Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers will present the award to the Executive Board of the Muslim Coalition for educating the public on Islam and Muslims at a time when there has been an increase in hate crimes and discrimination directed toward Muslims. Through the Coalition's leadership and many initiatives, it successfully embodies this year's Law Day theme, *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*.



Law Day: Awards and education mix

Libor Jany

Updated 11:51 pm, Friday, May 3, 2013

DANBURY -- The local legal community recognized three members Friday at the [Greater Danbury Bar Association](#)'s annual Law Day ceremony.

Several dozen lawyers, judges and city officials crammed into a meeting room at the [Danbury Superior Courthouse](#) for the event, whose theme was "Realizing The Dream: Equality For All."

The day also was an opportunity for third-graders from the [Ellsworth Elementary School](#) to learn about the legal system.

The Pro Bono Award was presented to [Cohen & Wolf](#) attorney [Monte Frank](#) for his work lobbying for more stringent gun laws in the wake of the Dec. 14 massacre in Newtown. Frank also took part in a four-day, commemorative bike trip from [Sandy Hook Elementary School](#) to Washington, D.C., to encourage legislators to back gun control reform.

"I wish that we could just turn back the clock and all the work that I've done in the past four months be undone," Frank told the audience.

[Patricia Fragoso](#), a personal injury lawyer at [Ventura, Ribeiro & Smith](#), earned the American Dream Award, given to a "foreign-born" litigator with an exemplary record. The former teacher is fluent in English, French, Spanish and her native Portuguese.

"No matter what you want to do, you put your mind to it and you do it. You roll up your sleeves and get down to hard work," Fragoso said as she accepted the honor.

The final award of the day was given to [Peter Barrett](#), a teacher at [Bethel High School](#). The Liberty Bell Award is given annually to a "non-lawyer who has contributed significantly to the legal community," said [Wendy Grispin](#), a partner at [Pinney Payne](#) and one of the events organizers. Barrett, Grispin says, coaches the school's mock trial team, which was also recognized for winning a regional competition.

"The Bethel program has really just grown by leaps and bounds," she said. "From the middle school on those kids are already thinking about participating in high school."

But it was the fidgeting third-graders who made the biggest impression, at least early on.



The students assembled in one of the courtrooms before the ceremony for a question-and-answer session with Judge [Andrew Roraback](#), who, likely for the first time in his brief career behind the bench, walked into a courtroom to a round of applause. He briefly talked about the legal process.

One student asked pointedly, “When you’re sitting in the chair and you decide if the criminal is going to jail, do you ever slam the hammer?” He was gently corrected by Roraback. The proper term is “gavel,” the judge said.

The students were particularly intrigued by the pair of handcuffs that one of the court marshals produced when he asked for volunteers.

Grispin said the annual event helps dispel popular misconceptions about those in the legal profession.

“I just think the more you can expose people to the system and take away some of the negative feedback and ideas that people have, and even the fear ... I think the more comfortable they are with it and even the more educated they are, the better it is for society,” she said.

“Unfortunately, so many people view the law, in general, in a negative way and they don’t realize how positive it is.”

Children's advocate honored during Law Day event

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John Penney/ NorwichBulletin.com

Christine Collins, coordinator for the Windham County Multidisciplinary Team and for the local child advocacy center, was presented on Friday with the Liberty Bell Award, part of the 2013 Law Day event.

By JOHN PENNEY

The Bulletin

Posted May 03, 2013 @ 10:58 PM

Danielson, Conn. —

A local child advocate was lauded for her work with abuse victims during a ceremony Friday in Danielson Superior Court.

Christine Collins, who works closely with law enforcement and court representatives in dealing with cases of child abuse, was the 2013 Liberty Bell Award recipient, presented to a citizen whose efforts further the cause of justice.

Collins' award was part of the American Bar Association's 2013 Law Day event, which highlights the role of courts in maintaining a robust democracy. This year's theme, "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All," was exemplified by Collins, said State's Attorney Patricia Froehlich, who nominated the Day Kimball Hospital employee.

“Christine has worked tirelessly to coordinate a multidisciplinary response to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse,” Froehlich said. “Christine has worked to ensure that our Child Advocacy Center is not merely a child-friendly atmosphere, but also a culturally sensitive one in which children and families from all backgrounds can feel comfortable.”

Collins called the award an incredible honor and said she’ll continue with her abuse prevention efforts.

“Equality for children is what this is all about,” she said. “They are the future.”

In addition to her hands-on work at the advocacy center, Collins also tracked child sexual abuse cases in the region for the National Children’s Alliance. That work substantiated a long-discussed rumor, Froehlich said.

“This judicial district has the greatest number of child sexual abuse cases per capita in the state of Connecticut,” she said.

Collins said she hopes the award will bring attention to the abuse problem in Windham County.

“We want people talking about it,” she said. “I want perpetrators to know we’re talking about this issue and we’re not going to lay down.”

During Friday’s ceremony, Judge Michael Riley took time to pay homage to the individuals who “fought to bring those ageless ideals of freedom and fairness into the rule of law.”

“Even now that work is not yet finished,” he said. “Opportunity remains painfully unequal for too many among us; justice too often goes undone. Law day is a chance to reaffirm the critical role that our courts have always played in addressing those wrongs and aligning our nation with its founding principles.”

Read more: [Children’s advocate honored during Law Day event - Norwich, CT - The Bulletin](http://www.norwichbulletin.com/news/x2062762392/Childrens-advocate-honored-during-Law-Day-event#ixzz2WajW8J1) <http://www.norwichbulletin.com/news/x2062762392/Childrens-advocate-honored-during-Law-Day-event#ixzz2WajW8J1>

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Legal community recognizes Norwich pastor on Law Day

By **Karen Florin**

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Norwich - The Rev. Gregory A. Perry rode to the New London County Bar Association's annual Law Day Luncheon at the Norwich Inn & Spa on his motorcycle Friday to accept the group's Liberty Bell award. The theme of Law Day 2013 is "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All," according to Charles K. Norris, president of the local bar association. Perry's family and friends say Perry has devoted his life to those concepts. In particular, they wanted to recognize his efforts to bring members of the community together for the city's yearlong celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

"He is a tireless worker," said Shiela Hayes, vice chairman of the Emancipation Proclamation Commemoration Committee. "He never says no. He has a lot of hidden talents and treasures that have benefited the entire Norwich community."

Perry, 60, is the pastor of the Greeneville Congregational Church and president of the Norwich Area Clergy Association. He retired from the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services after 28 years. He was a chaplain at Norwich Hospital and Connecticut Valley Hospital and coordinated the agency's employee assistant program.

Introduced by his son, also named Gregory Perry, as a person whose "mantra is personal responsibility," the pastor stood before the assembly of local attorneys, judges and family and friends and joked that he didn't need a microphone because God had blessed him with a big mouth.

Then he got serious about the theme of the day.

"Being a part of this great nation means we indeed have liberty, but the grace of liberty means not (just) doing the things we want to do," Perry said.

If he was so inclined, Perry said he would probably spend his days putting miles on his motorcycle, a Honda Gold Wing, and hanging out at an area gas station. Perry said he learned by example from his single mother, who worked hard to raise five children, and from other role models who "chose to give up a portion of their life, their liberty and freedom to others."

"I'm absolutely humbled to be recognized with this Liberty Bell award," Perry said. "This is indeed an exciting and amazing honor."

New London Judge Emmet L. Cosgrove, administrative judge for the district, spoke of the courts' role in helping achieve the dreams of liberty and equality for all.

"There have been dreams about the ability to buy a house where one chooses to live," Cosgrove said. "A person might dream about getting the right to a good education regardless of color."

It might be easy to say that these are issues that the U.S. Supreme Court should deal with, Cosgrove said, "But I submit that achieving the dream of equality is a relevant goal for all of us serving in the New London County Bar."

And when a dispute is resolved by the courts, the resolution might not make everyone happy, Cosgrove said, "but it is respected because of how it was achieved."

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West Hartford student joins Law Day celebration at Appellate Court



NEW BRITAIN— Duffy Elementary School student, Katie Simpson participated in the Law Day celebration hosted by the Connecticut Bar Association and the Connecticut Appellate Court in Hartford on May 2. This year's theme, declared by the American Bar Association, was "Realizing the Dream, Equality for All." The program featured a dramatic reading of important documents in United States history regarding the right of equal protection under the law by students from across the state. These documents included portions of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Fourteen and Nineteen Amendments of the United States Constitution.

The Honorable Alexandra DiPentima, Chief Appellate Court Judge, welcomed attendees to the 2013 Law Day Celebration and described the ceremony as "bringing the bench, bar, and public together to celebrate the rule of law." In reflection on the planning of this year's Law Day, DiPentima said that the words from our founding documents paired with the power from our next generation was the best way to celebrate.

Superior Court Judge Susan B. Handy then introduced the ceremony's moderator, Attorney Eric Parker, morning co-anchor for WFSB Channel 3 News.

Katie was among 20 students from across the state selected by the Connecticut Bar Association's Civics Education Committee to participate in this year's Law Day celebration. After the readings, Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill presented citations to each of the students.

The Connecticut Bar Association is a membership organization serving Connecticut attorneys and the legal profession by working to advance the principles of justice, the practice of law, the image of the profession, and public understanding of the law.