

BarLEADER

Issue 5

TOOLKIT

FROM THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Theme for December: **Law Day 2008**

Welcome

Law Day is the legal profession's opportunity to recognize the role of law in our society, and in 2008, when we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Law Day, we will have more opportunities than usual to promote this annual observance.

This *Bar Leader Toolkit* examines the history of Law Day as well as the theme for the 2008 celebration—*The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity*.

By looking at the establishment of Law Day and its relevance in today's society, this issue highlights the many points where the rule of law intersects with communities, both local and global.

This toolkit offers several viewpoints on Law Day through op-eds that you can share with newspapers in your communities. It also presents a draft proclamation, a Q-and-A on Law Day and a letter to the editor. We hope these tools are helpful as you plan your Law Day 2008 celebrations.

As part of Law Day 2008, ABA President William H. Neukom is encouraging observances in towns, cities and states across the country. There are several links from pieces in this toolkit to the Law Day 2008 Planning Guide, which provides suggestions for community events and discussions.

We hope that you will find this toolkit and the Law Day 2008 Planning Guide to be useful as you prepare to mark the occasion.

As always, I welcome your thoughts on this toolkit.

Sincerely,

Roseanne Lucianek
Director, Bar Services

Featured Tools

[Home](#)

[Op-Ed: Law Day](#)

- [Impacts of the Rule of Law](#)
- [50th Anniversary Teaching Tips](#)

[Letter to the Editor](#)

[Draft Proclamation](#)

[Law Day Q&A](#)

[ABA Calendar](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Give us your feedback, CLICK HERE!](#)

[DOWNLOAD a PDF of BarLeader Toolkit](#)



[Back to top.](#)

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Bar LEADER TOOLKIT

Issue 5

Theme for December: **Law Day 2008**

The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity

Today when the world is faced with two contrasting ideologies—the rule of law and the rule of terror, celebrating Law Day becomes more than observing our traditional values. It becomes an affirmation of the legal traditions that for years made the United States a beacon of hope for those living under tyranny.

Fifty years ago when President Dwight Eisenhower issued the proclamation establishing Law Day as a day to recognize the heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law as bequeathed to us by the founders of the United States, the world was similarly divided. At that time, it was the vigor of the free world opposed to the forces of the Soviet bloc.

Although much has changed in the world during 50 years since Law Day was established, including the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of apartheid in South Africa, the underlying contrast between transparency and totalitarianism remains.

To celebrate Law Day 2008, it is fitting that the theme—The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity—defines what the rule of law can mean in the United States and abroad. By definition, the rule of law describes a system based on fair, publicized, easily understood and stable laws enforced with equity by knowledgeable lawyers and judges. This system of government encourages trust in institutions and the future.

The rule of law reminds us that law is not just the concern of lawyers and judges, but all people - whether teachers or truck drivers, drill sergeants or dentists, journalists or journeymen. It also reminds us that we have an obligation to maintain the rule of law here at home and around the world.

On this Law Day 2008, the _____ Bar Association asks each of us to stand up for the rule of law by supporting those who fight totalitarianism wherever it exists and those who advance understanding of the value of a system of laws, not men. We owe the future no less.

Link to Law Day 2008 Web site on the Rule of Law.

Featured Tools

[Home](#)

[Op-Ed: Law Day](#)

- [Impacts of the Rule of Law](#)
- [50th Anniversary](#)

[Teaching Tips](#)

[Letter to the Editor](#)

[Draft Proclamation](#)

[Law Day Q&A](#)

[ABA Calendar](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Give us your feedback, CLICK HERE!](#)

[DOWNLOAD a PDF of BarLeader Toolkit](#)



[Back to top.](#)

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Bar LEADER TOOLKIT

Issue 5

Theme for December: **Law Day 2008**

Law Day as Relevant Today as 50 Years Ago

"Free people can assure the blessing of liberty for themselves only if they recognize that the rule of law shall be supreme and that all men shall be equal before the law," said President Eisenhower in speaking of the importance of Law Day.

In the United States, Eisenhower stood up for the rule of law during the school integration crisis in Little Rock, Ark., in September 1957, sending in federal troops to ensure that the law of the land equally served all Americans.

Because he appreciated the relationship between the rule of law and a free society, in 1958 President Eisenhower designated May 1 as a day dedicated to the principle of government under law, and Congress formally recognized that day as the official date for observing Law Day three years later.

Since the establishment of Law Day, the observance has provided the opportunity for us to recognize and celebrate a society where the goal of government continues to be fair laws applied with equity.

Today, challenges to the ideal of equal justice under law persist at home and abroad. We still have a way to encourage rule of law around the world.

It is fitting that on the 50th anniversary of the first Law Day - a day President Eisenhower called "a day of national dedication to the principle of government under law" - that we celebrate this milestone with the theme "The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity."

As members of the _____ Bar Association, we know that lawyers do not have a monopoly on the rule of law. The rule of law exists to serve all citizens in communities throughout the United States and beyond. The rule of law is our heritage and our promise to the people around the world. The goal of Law Day remains a commitment to justice.

Read President Eisenhower's **1958 Proclamation** establishing Law Day.

Back to top.

Featured Tools

[Home](#)

[Op-Ed: Law Day](#)

- [Impacts of the Rule of Law](#)
- [50th Anniversary](#)

[Teaching Tips](#)

[Letter to the Editor](#)

[Draft Proclamation](#)

[Law Day Q&A](#)

[ABA Calendar](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Give us your feedback, CLICK HERE!](#)

[DOWNLOAD a PDF of BarLeader Toolkit](#)



BarLEADER TOOLKIT

Issue 5

Theme for December: **Law Day 2008**

Teaching Tips

Asking your members to teach a class in a local school is one of the traditional ways your bar association can observe Law Day. Developed for inclusion in your bar association publication, the information in this article is designed to help your members feel comfortable in front of a class.

Tips to help build rapport with a class

Most students look forward to having community members speak with them as a break from their day-to-day routine. When you speak to a class, your challenge is involving students with your topic—in this case the Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity—and keeping them interested.

The following tips coupled with the lesson plan found in this year's *Dialogue* can go a long way in making sure that your classroom appearance is one that students remember as a welcome, informative break from their routine.

1. Involve students quickly. You can establish rapport by having students introduce themselves by saying their names and a fact about themselves. For example, you might ask students to name the place where they were born, a favorite subject or even what the rule of law means to them.
2. Reveal something about yourself. Tell them your name and answer the same question.
3. Establish your credibility by explaining something about your background, education and practice.
4. Identify the value and importance of the topic. You may need to think about some examples of the rule of law in your community and explain how it impacts students. You might want to ask about rules in the classroom and what those rules mean to individual students and the class as a whole. Then you can tie that discussion to the larger issue.
5. Tell the students what you are going to tell them and how you are going to do it. Let students know if you prefer to go through the material and go back for questions or if you will stop each time a student has a question.
6. Recognize the importance of vocabulary. Students often struggle with new words introduced with new concepts. Find ways to link legal terms to familiar concepts.
7. When you are finished, go back and tell the students what you said. Repeat why the rule of law is important.

Featured Tools

[Home](#)

[Op-Ed: Law Day](#)

- [Impacts of the Rule of Law](#)
- [50th Anniversary](#)

[Teaching Tips](#)

[Letter to the Editor](#)

[Draft Proclamation](#)

[Law Day Q&A](#)

[ABA Calendar](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Give us your feedback, CLICK HERE!](#)

[DOWNLOAD a PDF of BarLeader Toolkit](#)



8. Relax and enjoy the refreshing viewpoints students can offer.

Back to top.

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Bar LEADER TOOLKIT

Issue 5

Theme for December: **Law Day 2008**

Letter to the Editor

Rule of Law in Local Communities

Dear Editor,

When you can step off a sidewalk, trusting that traffic will stop at the stop sign and not run you down, you can thank the rule of law. When you buy a car and trust that it will work as promised or be fixed, you can thank the rule of law. And, when you have elected the officials who set fair and equitable government policies, you can thank the rule of law.

The rule of law is the framework for our community and our country. It is what enables us to work together, providing a foundation for how we interact with each other on a personal and public level. Rule of law provides police and firefighters to keep people safe, provides for public health to protect communities, provides education for our children and makes provisions for businesses to sell goods, create jobs and deliver economic benefits.

Simply put, the rule of law touches each of us every day because without the rule of law, there is neither order nor liberty.

On May 1, the _____ Bar Association joins with the American Bar Association as well as other state and local bar associations around the United States in observing Law Day. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Law Day, a day set aside by President Dwight Eisenhower and then by Congress to acknowledge the importance of the rule of law in our society.

The members of the _____ Bar Association invite you to learn more about the rule of law by visiting www.lawday.org.

(Name)

President

_____ Bar Association

Back to top.

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Featured Tools

Home

Op-Ed: Law Day

- Impacts of the Rule of Law
- 50th Anniversary

Teaching Tips

Letter to the Editor

Draft Proclamation

Law Day Q&A

ABA Calendar

Contact Us

Give us your feedback,
CLICK HERE!

**DOWNLOAD a PDF of
BarLeader Toolkit**





Bar LEADER TOOLKIT

Issue 5

Theme for December: **Law Day 2008**

Draft Proclamation

WHEREAS, the United States was founded on a heritage of liberty and justice under the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, Law Day, as established 50 years ago, honors the rule of law as a fundamental right of citizens, providing the opportunity to live under a society of equity and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, the fiftieth anniversary of Law Day with the theme: The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity acknowledges the role of law in creating a society built on mutual respect and trust for the betterment of all; and

WHEREAS, Law Day affords the occasion to recognize the contributions of this nation's legal professionals, as well as those who serve our country through the courts, the schools, the military, government agencies or through commerce; and

WHEREAS, the (local bar association) supports celebrating the rule of law through Law Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I (name and title of local official) do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as Law Day. Along with the members of the (name of local) Bar Association, I urge all citizens, members of the legal profession, schools, businesses and the media to learn more about the rule of law and to promote awareness of Law Day in our daily lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ____ day of _____, 2008.

(Signed) _____

Sample Law Day Proclamation (page 5)

Back to top.

Featured Tools

[Home](#)

[Op-Ed: Law Day](#)

- [Rule of Law impacts](#)
- [50th Anniversary](#)

[Teaching Tips](#)

[Letter to the Editor](#)

[Draft Proclamation](#)

[Law Day Q&A](#)

[ABA Calendar](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Give us your feedback, CLICK HERE!](#)

[DOWNLOAD a PDF of BarLeader Toolkit](#)



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BarLEADER TOOLKIT

Issue 5

Theme for December: **Law Day 2008**

Just the Facts

Law Day Q-and-A gives you the facts on the history and importance of this special observance.

What is Law Day?

Law Day is the national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. It underscores how law and legal processes have contributed to the freedoms that we as Americans share.

When is Law Day celebrated?

Although the official date is May 1, celebrations can take place either just before or just after that date. In fact, some bar associations celebrate Law Week.

When was the first Law Day?

The first Law Day was celebrated on May 1, 1958. It was created by a proclamation by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Law Day was formally recognized by a joint resolution of Congress in 1961.

What is the theme of Law Day 2008?

The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity is the theme for this year's observation.

Who celebrates Law Day?

Although lawyers, judges and others in the legal profession lead the way in celebrating Law Day, the day offers a reminder to all of the value of living in a country where the goal is to have fair laws applied with equity.

How is Law Day celebrated?

State and local bar associations around the country traditionally organize observances. These events can range from teaching about the rule of law in local

Featured Tools

[Home](#)

[Op-Ed: Law Day](#)

- [Impacts of the Rule of Law](#)
- [50th Anniversary](#)

[Teaching Tips](#)

[Letter to the Editor](#)

[Draft Proclamation](#)

[Law Day Q&A](#)

[ABA Calendar](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Give us your feedback, CLICK HERE!](#)

[DOWNLOAD a PDF of BarLeader Toolkit](#)



schools, presenting a community debate, writing a letter to the editor or op-ed piece for the local newspaper or working with local government on a proclamation endorsing Law Day. What is truly significant is that state and local bars support the Law Day message as a unified voice.

Back to top.

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Bar LEADER TOOLKIT

Issue 5

Theme for December: **Law Day 2008**

ABA Calendar

Find out when ABA meetings will take place in your community or one close by.

January 2007

DATES	MEETING NAME	SPONSOR	LOCATION
01/03/2008 – 01/05/2008	Standing Committee on Group & Prepaid LGL Svcs Mtg	Standing Committee on Group and Prepaid Legal Services	Fort Myers, FL
01/05/2008 – 01/08/2008	Section of Business Law 2008 Consumer Financial Services Winter Meeting	Section of Business Law	Park City, UT
01/10/2008 – 01/12/2008	2008 Section of Litigation Joint CLE Seminar Silvertree, CO — The Silvertree Hotel	Section of Litigation	Snowmass Village, CO
01/11/2008 – 01/12/2008	Standing Committee on Environmental Law	Standing Committee on Environmental Law	Jekyll Island, GA
01/12/2008 – 01/15/2008	2008 Antitrust Midwinter Leadership Meeting (by invitation)	Section of Antitrust Law	Playa Del Carmen, Mexico
01/17/2008 – 01/19/2008	2008 Midyear Meeting	Section of Taxation	Henderson, NV
01/17/2008 – 01/18/2008	Third Annual Homeland Security Law Institute	Section of Science and Technology Law	Washington, DC
01/17/2008 – 01/20/2008	34th Annual TIPS Midwinter Symposium on Insurance Fort Lauderdale Grande Hotel & Yacht Club	Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section	Fort Lauderdale, FL
01/18/2008 – 01/19/2008	Administrative Law-Third Annual Homeland Security Law Institute	Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice	Washington, DC
01/18/2008 – 01/18/2008	Commission Meeting	Commission on Law and Aging	Washington, DC
01/25/2008 – 01/26/2008	Section of Business Law — 2008 Committee on Cyberspace Law Winter Working Meeting	Section of Business Law	Minneapolis, MN

Featured Tools

[Home](#)

[Op-Ed: Law Day](#)

- [Impacts of the Rule of Law](#)
- [50th Anniversary](#)

[Teaching Tips](#)

[Letter to the Editor](#)

[Draft Proclamation](#)

[Law Day Q&A](#)

[ABA Calendar](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Give us your feedback, CLICK HERE!](#)

[DOWNLOAD a PDF of BarLeader Toolkit](#)



01/25/2008 – 01/27/2008	StC on Pro Bono and Public Service Meeting	Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service	New Orleans, LA
01/26/2008 – 01/27/2008	National Law Student Trial Advocacy Competition Championship	Section of Labor and Employment Law	Chicago, IL
01/30/2008 – 02/01/2008	Antitrust International Cartel Workshop	Section of Antitrust Law	San Francisco, CA
01/31/2008 – 02/02/2008	State & Local Government Bargaining and Employment Law Committee Midwinter Meeting	Section of Labor and Employment Law	Puerto Vallarta; Mexico
01/31/2008 – 01/31/2008	Forum on Air & Space Law 2008 Update Conference	Forum Committee on Air & Space Law	Washington, DC
01/31/2008 – 02/01/2008	TIPS FSLC Meeting	Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section	New York, NY

February 2007

DATES	MEETING NAME	SPONSOR	LOCATION
02/05/2008 – 02/05/2008	StC on the Delivery of Legal Svcs Meeting	Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services	TBD
02/06/2008 – 02/12/2008	ABA Midyear Meeting	Section of Science and Technology Law	Los Angeles, CA
02/06/2008 – 02/12/2008	2008 ABA Midyear Meeting	ABA Book Publishing	Los Angeles, CA
02/06/2008 – 02/08/2008	2008 ABA-APPROVED SCHOOLS DEAN'S WORKSHOP	Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar	Santa Monica, CA
02/07/2008 – 02/09/2008	Forum on Affordable Housing Regional Meeting	Forum Committee on Affordable Housing and Community Development Law	New Orleans, LA
02/07/2008 – 02/09/2008	ABA YLD Midyear Meeting	Young Lawyers Division	Los Angeles, CA
02/07/2008 – 02/07/2008	The 2007 AIA Documents: New Forms, New Issues, New Strategies	Forum Committee on the Construction Industry	San Antonio, TX
02/08/2008 – 02/09/2008	2008 GPSLD Midyear Meeting	Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division	Los Angeles, CA
02/08/2008 – 02/09/2008	2008 SLD Midyear Meeting	Senior Lawyers Division	Los Angeles, CA

02/08/2008 – 02/08/2008	Arbitrating the Mega-Case Surviving and Succeeding in the Mega Arbitration	Section of Dispute Resolution	Los Angeles, CA
02/09/2008 – 02/13/2008	ADR in Labor & Employment Law Committee Midwinter Meeting	Section of Labor and Employment Law	Playa Del Carmen, Mexico
02/14/2008 – 02/17/2008	2008 Litigation Committee on Corporate Counsel Scottsdale, AZ — Westin Kierland Resort	Section of Litigation	Scottsdale, AZ
02/14/2008 – 02/15/2008	Gaming Law Minefield	ABA Center for CLE; Section of Business Law; Criminal Justice Section	Henderson, NV
02/14/2008 – 02/14/2008	Forum on Comm Law 11th Media Advocacy Workshop	Forum Committee on Communications Law	Boca Raton, FL
02/15/2008 – 02/16/2008	Forum on Communications Law 13th Annual Conference Boca Raton, FL	Forum Committee on Communications Law	Boca Raton, FL
02/17/2008 – 02/20/2008	Development of the Law Under the NLRA Committee Midwinter Meeting	Section of Labor and Employment Law	Naples, FL
02/20/2008 – 02/23/2008	Practice and Procedure Under the NLRA Committee Midwinter Meeting	Section of Labor and Employment Law	Naples, FL
02/20/2008 – 02/22/2008	9th Annual Conference on Emerging Issues in Healthcare Law 2008	Health Law Section	TBD
02/21/2008 – 02/22/2008	26th Annual Water Law Conference	Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources	TBD
02/27/2008 – 02/29/2008	Federal Labor Standards Legislation Committee Midwinter Meeting	Section of Labor and Employment Law	Montego Bay; Jamaica
02/27/2008 – 03/01/2008	Employee Benefits Committee Midwinter Meeting	Section of Labor and Employment Law	New Orleans, LA
02/27/2008 – 03/01/2008	2008 Insurance Coverage Litigation CLE Seminar Tucson, AZ — The Westin La Paloma	Section of Litigation	Tucson, AZ
02/28/2008 – 03/01/2008	16 Annual TIPS Insurance Coverage Litigation Mtg The Ritz-Carlton Marina del Rey	Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section	Marina Del Rey, CA

For a complete annual listing of ABA activities, please click [here](#).

[Back to top.](#)

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BarLEADER TOOLKIT

Issue 5

Theme for December: **Law Day 2008**

Tell us what you think

Thanks for taking the time to review *Bar Leader Toolkit*, an online resource for bar association leaders. Please take a couple of minutes to answer the following questions. Your answers will guide us as we plan future online materials.

This information was informative and helpful:

Yes No Somewhat

I would like to see other topics covered in this format:

Yes No Somewhat

The tools I would find most useful are:

Articles
Op-Ed pieces
Q-and-A's
PowerPoint Presentations
PowerPoint Presentations
Video news releases
Radio news releases
Other

I am affiliated with:

Local Bar Association State Bar Association

Featured Tools

[Home](#)

[Op-Ed: Law Day](#)

- [Impacts of the Rule of Law](#)
- [50th Anniversary](#)

[Teaching Tips](#)

[Letter to the Editor](#)

[Draft Proclamation](#)

[Law Day Q&A](#)

[ABA Calendar](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Give us your feedback, CLICK HERE!](#)

[DOWNLOAD a PDF of BarLeader Toolkit](#)

