



PRESS RELEASE

Prince George's County Public Schools • www.pgcps.org

Dr. André J. Hornsby, Chief Executive Officer
14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: John White, 301-952-6375
Kelly Alexander, 301-952-6001

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS ENGAGE IN JURY DUTY AWARENESS

Students from Prince George's County public schools will participate in the first Jury Duty Awareness Symposium, arranged by the Honorable William D. Missouri, Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, and the Honorable Rosalyn E. Pugh, Clerk of the Court, on Friday, April 22, at the Circuit Court in Upper Marlboro.

The Honorable Sherrie L. Krauser, Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and co-chair of the Prince George's County Bar Association Law Day Committee, planned the Symposium to promote this year's Law Day theme, *The American Jury: We the People in Action*. Susan C. Strickland, mock trial coordinator for Prince George's County Public Schools, is coordinating the teachers and students participating in the Symposium.

"This partnership with the bar engages students in a unique educational experience that provides a better understanding of why they should exercise their rights and duties under the law," said Dr. André J. Hornsby, Chief Executive Officer of Prince George's County Public Schools. "Through discussion and practice, we intend to stimulate our students' interest in the judicial process, and demonstrate the importance of fulfilling their legal responsibilities in order to maintain justice in a peaceful society."

The Jury Duty Awareness Symposium will introduce students to the role of juries in preserving our system of justice, in preparation for the recognition of jury service on Law Day on Monday, May 2. Students in high school government and law classes at Bladensburg, Croom, DuVal, Charles H. Flowers, Friendly, Potomac, Suitland, and Tall Oaks have received mock jury summonses "compelling" their attendance at the Symposium. Students will meet in the Jury Assembly Room, where the Clerk of the Court and her staff will conduct the Jury Orientation, and students will watch the introductory film seen by all Prince George's County jurors. Judge Krauser will conduct a mock jury selection, and divide the students into jury panels.

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Board of Education of Prince George's County

In the late 1950s, the American Bar Association established May 1 as Law Day to promote recognition of the principles and practice of law and justice. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day by proclamation in 1958. Now celebrated throughout the month of May, Law Day is an opportunity for everyone to reflect on our legal heritage, on the role of law in protecting justice and fairness in society, and on the rights and duties of people to maintain law and justice as the foundation of peace and prosperity for society.

Each year, the Prince George's County Bar Association, the Prince George's County Public Schools, and the Prince George's County courts sponsor a high school mock trial competition among teams from all interested high schools throughout the Seventh Judicial Circuit, under the auspices of the Maryland State Bar Association. The Seventh Circuit competition includes public, private and parochial schools throughout Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties. With more than 30 high schools and more than 300 students participating, the Seventh Circuit competition includes more students than any other jurisdiction in Maryland.

This year, in addition to the competition before judges, several mock trial teams will present abbreviated versions of the competition trial to the student juries in the Jury Duty Awareness Symposium. This year's mock trial charges a teen driver with responsibility for the death of three friends in a rollover accident involving alcohol, reckless driving, and an SUV. In their deliberations, student jurors will discuss the important issues facing our community as they consider the evidence presented.

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