

For Release: Immediate

Subject: Law Day-May 1, 2009

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KEY WEST, FL -- The 16th Judicial Circuit announces events for Law Day, scheduled for May 1, 2009. Law Day was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958 to “strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law.” In 1961, a joint resolution of Congress declared May 1 the official date of Law Day.

This year’s theme is “A Legacy of Liberty—Celebrating Lincoln’s Bicentennial.” With regards to the theme, the 16th Judicial Circuit, in conjunction with the Monroe County Bar Association and the Upper Keys Bar Association, is sponsoring a banner contest for elementary classes and an essay contest for high school students in all three areas of the Keys. Thanks to a generous donation from the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, the Freeman Justice Center will host over 100 students from local elementary schools as they participate in mock trials put on by local middle school students on Friday, May 1st. Local private attorneys, state attorneys and public defenders will assist the kids with the trials and educate them about their professions in a question and answer session with other courthouse staff. In addition to the mock trials, the Masonic Lodge Child ID Program will be on hand to provide child ID kits to all kids in attendance. Other sponsors for Law Day events include Keys Energy Services and FKA.A.

The public is welcome to attend Law Day activities at the Freeman Justice Center beginning at 8:45 am, Friday, May 1st. If you would like more information on Law Day or are interested in scheduling a speaker for your club, organization or class, please call Cheryl Alfonso at 295-3652.