

Contacts:
Matthew Zehm - 505-348-2058
Pat Zold - 505-992-3811
Lydia Piper - 505-348-2088
Email: lawdaycontest@nmcourt.fed.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. DISTRICT COURT HOSTS LAW DAY ART AND ESSAY CONTEST

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico - The U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico is hosting a 2009 Law Day Essay and Art Contest. The theme of this year's contest is "A Legacy of Liberty - The Choice is Yours." The contest is open to New Mexico public high school students, grades 9-12. Sponsored by the New Mexico Federal Bar Association, awards ranging from \$1000 to \$250 will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, and five Honorable Mention certificates will be awarded in each contest at a reception in Albuquerque on June 29. In addition, 1st, 2nd or 3rd place recipients living more than 70 miles from Albuquerque will receive a limited travel expense per diem to attend the reception.

This year's Law Day celebrates the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, who, for many, fostered the idea of liberty and justice for *all*. A general definition of liberty is the freedom to choose or act according to an individual's own will, and Lincoln believed all Americans should enjoy that freedom. But Lincoln also knew that freedom to choose comes with great responsibility. He understood that to create a Legacy of Liberty, one must accept responsibility for one's choices and understand the consequences of one's. Only in doing so can one truly be free.

May 1st was designated as Law Day by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958. Each year, the District of New Mexico celebrates this day through a variety of programs and activities. This year, many of the court's judges and staff will be visiting local schools to help students understand how the rule of law protects our freedoms and how choices regarding the law can impact those freedoms.

Entry forms for each contest are available through local high schools or may be downloaded from the U.S. District Court's website at www.nmcourt.fed.us. All entries must be received at the Pete V. Domenici Courthouse in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by May 29, 2009. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winning entries from each category will be displayed at the U.S. District courthouses in each of the district divisional offices in Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe.