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For further information contact:

Winnie Comfort or Tammy Kendig 609-292-9580

Hudson Vicinage of New Jersey Superior Court Receives National Award for Law Day Programming

The Hudson Vicinage of Superior Court was named one of three winners of the 2009 American Bar Association's Law Day Outstanding Activity Award, announced Hudson Vicinage Assignment Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli.

"We are thrilled that, for the second consecutive year, one of our vicinages has received a national Law Day award from the American Bar Association," said Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts. "I congratulate the vicinage personnel for their commitment and ingenuity in educating the residents of Hudson County about the importance of the rule of law."

The Outstanding Activity Awards are presented to individuals or groups who implemented a public activity to support the Law Day 2009 theme, "A Legacy of Liberty—Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial."

"Our judges and staff, along with our partners in the bar association, the schools and the community, put tremendous thought and effort into our Law Day programming," said Judge Gallipoli. "This award encourages us to continue our Law Day outreach programs and to find new and exciting ways to help students and the public learn more about our legal system."

The Hudson Vicinage earned the award by planning a multi-faceted program that reached more than 1,000 children, youth and adults in Hudson County. The committee joined with the Hudson County Bar Association to run mock trial competition for high school students. They met with principals and school administrators from around the county to plan art, photo, essay and poetry contests for elementary and middle school students and invited all of the winners to the courthouse for the awards ceremony.

Adults in the community were invited to Court Night, a community education program jointly presented with the Hudson Vicinage Minority Concerns Committee and representatives from the bar association and other community groups, to learn more about topics such as landlord/tenant issues, divorce, child support, juvenile offender prevention, immigration and expungements of criminal records. A special program for jurors with lectures, educational games and other learning opportunities, rounded out the Hudson Vicinage's Law Day offerings.

Established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, Law Day is celebrated nationwide, usually on May 1, as an opportunity to recognize and reflect on the role that our legal system plays in upholding our democratic values.

The Hudson Vicinage Law Day Committee and its chair, Family Presiding Judge Maureen B. Mantineo, were assisted in organizing Law Day events by the Minority Concerns Committee, the bar association and the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

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