

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DISTRICT JUDGES

Hon. L. Eugene Hunt, Jr.
Hon. Sam A. Salamey
Hon. Mark W. Somers

Eric F. Cyman
Court Administrator
313-943-4156

19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

16077 MICHIGAN AVENUE
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN 48126

THE 19TH DISTRICT COURT CELEBRATES LAW DAY 2019



The 2019 Law Day theme—*Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society*—focuses on these cornerstones of representative government and calls on us to understand and protect these rights to ensure, as the U.S. Constitution proposes, “the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.” In the United States and around the world, freedom of speech and the press are among the most important foundations for a free society. Free speech and free press are prominent topics in public discourse and litigation. It is impossible to imagine a free society without these individual liberties, yet historical and current debates surrounding them continually challenge us to consider their boundaries and resilience. Changes in technology have reshaped how free speech and free press work in the everyday world.

Under Supreme Court First Amendment precedent, government speech is a relatively simple doctrine. In short, government can say whatever it wants. In other words, the Free Speech Clause does not restrict government speech, but the doctrine’s simplicity can be deceiving, especially in the context of some of today’s hot button issues. For example: can government set qualitative standards for grantees of government arts grants? Can government fund news media (as in PBS’s NewsHour or Frontline, or National Public Radio), or entertainment (as in Sesame Street)? Or, can government erect, or take down, certain monuments that pay tribute to certain figures, movements, or periods in our history that are deeply controversial? If the government can do these things, must it also present a contrary or opposing view?

ESSAY QUESTION: Is the government speech doctrine a good idea? Do we want a government that can say whatever it wants or should there be any restraints on government speech? Why or why not?

Dear Students and Parents:

Your 19th District Court has been a long active participant in the American Bar Association’s National Law Day observance. This year is no different as the Court and the Dearborn Rotary Club unite once again to conduct a citywide student essay contest.

The Dearborn Rotary will provide generous prizes for successful participants for the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Winners in each of the four grades will be awarded a Barnes and Noble gift card in the amount as follows: First Place \$100.00, Second Place \$75.00, Third Place \$50.00. One honorable mention recipient from each grade will receive a \$25.00 gift card.

All essays must be the original **work of the student**. The deadline for submitting an essay along with the completed attached entry form is Thursday, April 11, 2019. **Entries must be received at the Court no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 11, 2019.**

All award recipients and their families will be invited to an awards ceremony at the Courthouse on **Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. First place winners will get to read their essay to the audience.** The 19th District Court will host refreshments at the conclusion of the program.

Sincerely,

Gene Hunt
Chief Judge

Sam A. Salamey
District Judge

Mark W. Somers
District Judge

Glenn Maleyko
Rotary President

