Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy
1215-2015
TRAVELING EXHIBIT PROSPECTUS

BACKGROUND AND VISION

2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta, the great charter of rights and liberties that stands at the historic heart of English and American Constitutional Law and the world’s most enduring symbol of the rule of law. In honor of the anniversary, beginning November 28, 2014, the Library of Congress will host one of the four original 1215 exemplifications of Magna Carta. The original will be the centerpiece of a major Library of Congress exhibition that will present precious medieval manuscripts, printed books, pamphlets and other priceless documents from the Library’s collections that tell the story of the heritage of Magna Carta. The exhibition, entitled Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor, will trace Magna Carta’s influence from King John and the Barons at Runnymede Meadow through the rise of English political liberty and the founding of American to current events in the unfolding story of the rule of law throughout the world. The Library will host a substantive symposium and other events to highlight the exhibition.

To raise awareness about Magna Carta’s enduring legacy and to complement the Library’s onsite exhibition, the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress has joined with the Law Library of Congress to develop a traveling exhibit, Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy, 1215-2015. The traveling exhibit was designed to be accessible to a wide range of people, including judges, lawyers, educators, students, and laypeople. The exhibit features spectacular images from the Library’s exhibition along with supporting text printed on freestanding banners that tell the story of Magna Carta and its catalyst role in promoting the rule of law.

THE TRAVELING EXHIBIT

The traveling exhibit features:

- 16 freestanding banners with beautiful images of priceless Magna Carta related items from the Library of Congress rare books collection and related textual material. A lead banner highlights the ABA and its commitment to the Rule of Law and includes a photo of the ABA monument at Runnymede.

- A companion video of the Law Librarian of Congress and the Library of Congress exhibit curator handling selected books and documents from the exhibit while providing detailed information about them.

- A brochure documenting the exhibit as well as highlighting the ABA and the Law Library of Congress.
• A launch at the 2014 ABA Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. The exhibit has now begun its travels around the country for display in public buildings such as courthouses, law schools, universities, and public libraries, ensuring significant exposure for financial supporters.

• Display at a prominent ABA event in London, England from June 12-14, 2015 in celebration of the anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta.

• Magna Carta online exhibit pages posted prominently on the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress website.

DONOR OPPORTUNITIES

The ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress is seeking individual, foundation and corporate supporters for the traveling exhibit. The cost of the traveling exhibit is approximately $100,000.

Prospective supporters should be aware that:

The traveling exhibit is an integral part of the world-wide observations of the 1215 signing of Magna Carta. Celebratory events surrounding the anniversary are already in progress and widely publicized in the United Kingdom and the United States. The exhibit will be on display at the ABA Magna Carta Program in London, England from June 12-14, 2015.

Major donors will receive acknowledgment for their generous support on the exhibit’s donor banner as well as on promotional materials and on the exhibit pages posted on the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress website.

The exhibit will be on display for 2-3 years at public venues across the country, ensuring significant ongoing exposure. Even thereafter, donors will continue to be recognized on the exhibit pages on the ABA Committee’s website.

Donors will be offered opportunities to request that the exhibit be displayed in their hometown or favorite venue.


For more information about the exhibit or donation opportunities, please contact Elissa Lichtenstein, Director, ABA Division for Public Services at (202) 662-1695 or elissa.lichtenstein@americanbar.org.