1

The Law Day 2020 theme “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100,” provides an excellent opportunity to engage diverse audiences throughout the community in meaningful discussions related to the theme. As you plan your program, think about the right to vote, and how casting a ballot has been an important journey for certain groups of people for more than a century.

You might consider what aspects of the theme are most relevant for conversation in your community. Look for opportunities to hold events, invite speakers, form partnerships, and engage the community. The following are program and activity ideas by audience.

**LEGAL COMMUNITY**

Many lawyers and judges are eager to engage with members of the community in order to foster public understanding of the rule of law and the legal system. Law Day provides an excellent opportunity to reach public audiences. Members of the legal community are often available to collaborate with other organizations to ensure that programs reach the intended audience. Reach out to the following types of legal groups if you are seeking assistance with your programs:

- Law firms
- Legal aid organizations
- Government officials
- Courts
- Bar associations
- Law schools
- Jails or juvenile detention centers
- Law-focused education programs
- Advocacy organizations
- Professional legal organizations
Bar associations, law firms, and other legal organizations often sponsor or participate in Law Day outreach events, including:

**ASK-A-LAWYER PROGRAMS**
Allow members of the community to ask questions of legal professionals about the law, legal process, or possible legal issues that they may be encountering. Radio or television call-in shows, as well as public open houses, have been successful for many local communities. Also consider a web based chat or tweet up to reach your audience. Simply set a time, publicize the event, and provide the service of sharing information.

**COURT TOURS**
The courts can be a fascinating place for members of the community. Consider holding a court open house, where attendees might tour the courthouse, see a courtroom and explore. Take an opportunity to connect the space to the legal process and offer explanations about the rule of law, such as how courts work, what courts do, jury service, and locating lawyers.

**INFORMATION FAIRS**
Law Day provides an opportunity not only to share information about the Law Day theme, but other important legal literacy essentials and services provided by local and federal courts, law enforcement agencies, and law-related community organizations. Consider holding an information fair at community outlets such as government offices, community centers, churches, libraries, coffee shops, malls, or grocery stores.

**ADVOCATE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**
Law Day 2020 is an excellent opportunity to present the Liberty Bell Award and hold state or local ceremonies noting the special accomplishments of area advocates for legal rights. Lawyers, judges, or community members whose contributions may normally go unheralded might be nominated by, or introduced to, the community during the Liberty Bell Awards presentation.

**MOCK TRIALS**
Who doesn’t enjoy a good legal drama? Mock trials can take many forms. They might be organized as public performances for people who want to learn more about the legal system. Legal professionals might also lead mock trials with students or members of the community.

**FUNDRAISERS**
Raising money for Legal Aid groups and other nonprofit organizations that help promote access to justice is an excellent and often fun way to celebrate Law Day. From Law Day 5K races to Law Day golf tournaments or silent auctions, charitable events done for the purpose of advancing the cause of justice can be a great way to put the Law Day message into action.
As law students are learning about the legal ins-and-outs of justice, equality, and the Constitution, Law Day programming can help them make connections between these abstract ideals and today’s essential political debates and discussions. Be aware that Law Day falls towards the end of the semester, or for some schools, the start of the spring term. It is a good idea to consult the academic calendar (which can be found on the law school’s website) when planning your events and attempting to contact students.

There are a variety of ways to engage law students in your programming. Law students often assist in facilitating the activity on their campus or in an elementary or secondary classroom. They can also be a great resource to share Law Day information throughout the campus, or simply participate as an attendee in your program.

It is important when working with law schools to involve a variety of student led groups and administrative offices. Consider contacting minority law student group chapters, such as the:

- Black Law Students Association
- Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association
- Chinese American Law Students Association
- Disability Law Alliance
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Latino/Latina Law Students Association
- Native American Law Students Association
- Lavender Bar Association

The above list is by no means exhaustive. You may also want to engage the public service student group (usually called PILS). Visiting the “student life” section of the law school’s website should give you a sense of the various student groups and the proper contact information.

Working with the law school administration can be vital in ensuring your Law Day event’s success. The administration may be able to help you find space to hold an event, get the word out to students or even provide financial support. Start by working with the dean’s office to determine the proper policies and procedures within the school, and to learn about those individuals who could provide you valuable insight and support.

You may also want to work with the school’s alumni association in planning and executing your Law Day celebration. Law Day is an ideal time for alums to reconnect with their alma mater and connect with the next generation of professionals.

The following are just a few formats that your Law Day programming for law students can take:

**PUBLIC FORUM**
Host an open discussion on voting within your community. The forums can center on one or two keynote speakers or could be a moderated discussion between community leaders with time for audience questions.

**CAREER PANEL**
Invite alumni and lawyers in your community to speak to students about careers in law and government. Introducing law students to the diverse work being done should inspire them and possibly open new career avenues.
AWARDS PROGRAM
Work with the law student government, alumni association and/or local bar association to create an awards program to recognize law students or alum who are doing important work to ensure and protect justice and human rights. Awards can be given out during a luncheon or dinner program.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS OR MOVIE NIGHT
Select a movie or book for discussion within law school community as a whole. Discussion can take place during a formal meeting or through online chat and message groups. (See the Suggested Resources list for movies and books to further your Law Day 2020 discussions).

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Law Day falls near the end of the academic year at many colleges and universities, providing an opportunity for students to be engaged throughout the spring semester in planning a program or event for the campus community. Colleges and universities have many channels to connect to students interested in this year’s “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100” theme, especially pertaining to women’s rights and voting.

POSSIBLE STARTING points INCLUDE:
- Student government office
- College or university library
- Political science department
- Student newspaper, radio or television
- Student political action groups
- Student Affairs or Student Life office can connect you to student clubs and organizations
- Campus Compact – State affiliates
- Democracy Commitment or American Democracy Project

This year’s Law Day theme lends itself to creative opportunities for discussion and civic engagement. Students at community colleges and four year or research institutions can work with faculty, community groups, and the legal community to develop programs and events that allow diverse audiences to learn about and discuss 19th Amendment principles.

CAMPUS FORUM
Law Day is an excellent time to bring together campus groups and organizations, college or university experts, or members of the legal community. Look for opportunities to hold events on campus to encourage lively interactive discussion. Plan engaging programs that allow members of the audience to learn about freedom of expression, interact with one another, and voice their opinions.
WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE MARCH REENACTMENT
Social movements are as prevalent today as they were during previous generations’ crusades. A peaceful reenactment of the historical Women’s Suffrage March would be a fun way to rally the community together for a common good. Plan a parade route and enjoy a contemporary march for women’s rights.

BOOK OR FILM DISCUSSION
Books and films can provide an entree into discussions related to equity and voting. For book and film recommendations, see the Suggested Resources list.

POETRY SLAM
Poetry can serve as a creative outlet for discussion of complicated issues, and engage groups of people who might otherwise avoid certain conversations.

FILM CONTEST
Encourage students to put their movie-making skills to work. Students might develop Law Day related public service announcements that air on the campus television station or film original documentaries. Consider allowing the campus community to vote on the winners.

ESSAY CONTEST
Develop a provocative question related to the 19th Amendment and allow students to respond. Highlight essays by sharing them on a special website or print winning essays in a regular alumni publication.

CAMPUS CONFERENCE OR POSTER SESSIONS
Allow students to showcase their research or problem-solving ideas on issues relative to voting rights and responsibilities.

ART EXHIBIT
Curate an art or photography exhibit related to the voting theme. Display the exhibit in a campus museum or other public area and invite the public to view it.

THEATER OR OTHER ARTS PROGRAMMING
Plays, dramatic readings, dances, flash mobs or other coordinated programs can highlight issues or provide a starting point for provocative discussion.

SIDEWALK CHALKING EVENT (IF IT’S PERMITTED ON CAMPUS)
Perhaps you want to spread a message about voting or the rule of law. Do not overlook the straightforward and effective method of sidewalk chalk.
This year’s Law Day theme can be integrated across the school curriculum and school activities. These suggestions would also be good to use when engaging with youth organizations within your community. The following are just a few ideas for students and other youth.

**Mock Election**
Engage students of all ages, those under the legal voting age of 18 years old, as well as those that will be of voting age by Law Day, have fun deciding upon a candidate and casting a ballot, while understanding the importance of voting rights.

**Poetry Slam or Spoken Word Night**
For ideas, visit [http://poetryslam.com](http://poetryslam.com) or [http://www.powerpoetry.org/actions/5-tips-spoken-word](http://www.powerpoetry.org/actions/5-tips-spoken-word).

**Art Contest**
To illustrate their perspective on the Law Day theme, “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100,” students can be asked to showcase their creativity in video, photography, writing, drawing, painting, silk-screen t-shirts or collage. Details about the ABA’s Law Day 2020 Art Contest can be viewed here.

**YouTube Video Contest**
For instructions on how to set up a contest, visit [http://goo.gl/CNHzL](http://goo.gl/CNHzL).

**Debate or Speech Competition**
Students vie to create an argument for a given voting related topic pertaining to this year’s Law Day theme, “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100.”

**Student Mock Trial**

**Student Journalism Contest**
Students submit stories and exercise their student voice that feature topics happening in their communities or the nation.

**Compose a Global Governments Map**
Have students compare governmental structure in the United States to other countries around the globe.

**Gallery Walk in the Classroom**
Students can explore multiple historical documents, texts, and current news articles that are hung up around the classroom. This is a good way to introduce topics for discussion or writing.
COLLECTING ORAL HISTORIES
Students conduct interviews with members of the community. Tips for collecting oral histories can be found at http://www.usm.edu/oral-history

BUILDING A TOOLBOX
Students can create a toolbox for equality, voting, human rights, or social responsibility to encourage personal connections between these ideas and historic/current events. http://www.facing.org/resources/strategies/toolbox-project

Don’t forget to publicly acknowledge the work of the participants in your contest. Display entries in schools, law offices, city hall, public libraries, bookstores, and restaurants. Showcase winning entries on law office and school websites. If working with older students you may want to create a Facebook or Instagram page for your Law Day events. Winners can be presented with certificates at a Law Day event.

General Public

Successful Law Day programs expand their audiences by reaching out to all areas of their community. Seek out connections with a variety of groups in the community, including:

- Prominent companies and small businesses
- Chambers of commerce
- Convention and visitors bureaus
- Churches
- Youth groups
- Senior groups
- Fraternal organizations
- Block clubs or homeowner’s associations
- Community-based organizations
- Advocacy or ethnic organizations
- Media outlets
- Libraries
- Museums, zoos, and other cultural organizations

For a community that hopes to plan a Law Day program, the sky is really the limit with programming possibilities. Some successful program ideas include:

TOWN HALL OR PUBLIC DEBATE
Law Day is an opportunity to raise awareness, have conversations, or explore issues related to voting, equality, justice, and the law. Look for ways to reach out to a variety of organizations or members of the legal community. Look for opportunities to hold events that encourage lively interactive discussion. Plan engaging programs that allow members of the audience to learn about the rule of law, interact with one another, and express their opinions.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE
2020 is an election year for many states, municipalities, as well as our nation. What better way to engage the public in voting rights, then to involve them in the civic action of registering to vote? Not only will you have a lively event, but you will also be performing a service in your community.
COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
Consider a Law Day public awareness campaign about equality. Utilize traditional media outlets, such as the local news, but also think about billboards, roadside panels, street signs, or community bulletin boards as places to share a message.

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY
Some communities have success with “one book” campaigns, where members of the community are encouraged to read a particular book, and then participate in related discussions. See the books in the Suggested Resources list, and consider a Law Day related One Book campaign.

TEST THE COMMUNITY’S KNOWLEDGE
Develop a survey related to the Law Day theme. Questions about the 19th Amendment might be included. Spotlight survey respondents or results in community media outlets, or use the results to tailor a topic for a community wide town hall meeting.

COMMUNITY WIDE OPEN HOUSE
Most communities have locations that foster equality. A courthouse, city hall, park, library, museum, community organization, or school might be examples. Does your community have access to a presidential library, historic site, or a historic home? Plan a community open house to allow citizens to explore how their community is working toward equality and justice.