

Draft Press Release

### **Local Bar President Invites Public to Participate in Constitution Day**

September 17 is the date in 1787 when 39 men signed the Constitution in Philadelphia. In 2005, a federal law sponsored by Senator Robert Byrd declared September 17 to be “Constitution Day” and required that every federally funded school teach the Constitution on that day. Therefore, Monday September 17 will be filled with lessons about one of our nations most treasured documents, the Constitution.

In an effort to increase the public’s awareness of this occasion, [NAME], president of the [NAME] Bar Association, invites everyone to learn more about the Constitution during the month of September. “The Constitution is the most significant guarantee of our freedoms,” said [NAME]. “We can appreciate our freedom and respect our system of government by learning more about its importance on this special day.”

One way of celebrating the day is to join in a coordinated, nationwide recitation of the Preamble to the United States Constitution, by General Colin Powell, to be held on Monday, September 17, 2007 at 2:00 PM. A live web cast can be joined at [www.constitutionday.com](http://www.constitutionday.com) at that time. Following that recitation, there will be a roll call of the fifty United States in the order that the state ratified the Constitution or was admitted to the Union. Michigan was the 26<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the Constitution on January 26, 1837.

More information on Constitution Day, including materials available to lawyers, teachers and the public, can be found on the State Bar of Michigan website, [www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org).