

# Sharing Equal Justice for All

Law Day May 1, 2002

By Mary Ann Farris

Law Day Activities in Michigan have promoted a better understanding of our laws and judicial system for many years. Thousands of students throughout Michigan have participated in the annual Law Day Essay Contest. The students who win the Essay Contest have an incredible experience reading their winning essays at the Law Day luncheon in Lansing. The luncheon is attended by attorneys, judges, legislators, teachers, principals, student winners, and Michigan Lawyer's Auxiliary members.

These Michigan Law Day activities have received awards from the American Bar Association and the American Lawyers Association in recent years. The State Bar of Michigan and MLA members have been working together to expand the reach of Law Day activities. This year, 3,000 letters were sent to every school in the state encouraging teachers and students to enter. The Law Day web pages (part of the SBM website, [www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org)) have been visited by more than 1,200 people since January 2002, alone.

The celebration of Law Day and the continuance of the Law Day Essay Contest fits the State Bar's Statement of Purpose. Law Day activities improve relations between the legal profession and the public, and promote the interests of the legal profession in the state. Law Day helps lawyers serve the public and helps them gain respect for lawyers. It is a way to get information about the law to the public. The Law Day program of the Law-Related Education committee contributes to achieving the current State Bar priorities. The mandate of the MLA is to improve citizen awareness of the law, to serve the organized bar associations of the state of Michigan and to support and assist local lawyers spouses' organizations.

If you want to visit the Law Day Essay Contest website to explore the very challenging materials and read some of last year's winning essays go to [www.michbar.org/meetings/lawday02/welcome.html](http://www.michbar.org/meetings/lawday02/welcome.html).

The Michigan Lawyers' Auxiliary would like to invite you to the 2002 Law Day celebration luncheon. The theme this year is "Equal Justice For All." It will be held at Cooley Law School May 1, 2002. A reception starts at 11:30 a.m., with lunch starting at 12:00 noon. After lunch, the winning students will read their essays, be given their awards, and the Crystal Apple teacher award

will be presented. (See below for details and an entry form.) There will be a keynote speaker, and the luncheon should adjourn by 2:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please call Sue Oudsema at (800) 968-1442, ext. 6423, by April 31, 2002 for reservations. ♦

*Mary Ann Farris is the Michigan Lawyer's Auxiliary Law Day chairperson.*

## 2002 Crystal Apple for the Teacher Award

**Deadline: April 1, 2002**

### PURPOSE OF AWARD:

To recognize teachers who have made outstanding contributions to law-related education and whose programs and activities have

- furthered the understanding of the students about the role that the courts, law enforcement agencies, and the legal profession play in our society
- helped students to recognize their duties as well as their rights
- encouraged effective law-related education programs in their schools and communities
- increased communication between students, educators, and those involved professionally in the legal system

Nominations may be made by a school administrator, coordinator, director, student, or any interested party.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRY: Postmarked by April 1, 2002.**

**CONTACT:** Francile Anderson, Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary  
2570 Silverside, Waterford, MI 48328  
(248) 673-7707

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Principal \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### INFORMATION TO INCLUDE AND GUIDELINES:

Information listed below should be written or typed on an attached sheet. The length should not exceed one letter-size sheet (8½ x 11) of paper on both sides.

- (1) List law-related program(s) and/or activity(ies) the teacher has used
- (2) The length of time the teacher has been involved in law-related education
- (3) The number of students involved
- (4) How this teacher's ability and effort is helping to educate students to be effective, law-abiding, and participating young citizens who can manage conflict in constructive ways and sustain and foster our free democratic society

### REFERRED BY:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

