

LAW DAY 2003
Proclamation

WHEREAS, Law Day is a celebration of democracy and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, an essential component of these American ideals is a fair and impartial judiciary; and

WHEREAS, a fair and impartial judiciary protects American's rights and liberties under state and federal constitutions; and

WHEREAS, independence is essential for a fair and impartial judiciary to fulfill its constitutional obligations in the American system of checks and balances; and

WHEREAS, attempts by partisan and special interests to sway American courts are antithetical to the judiciary's role in a democratic society.

NOW, THEREFORE, Law Day provides an opportunity to re-examine how we as a nation want our judiciary to function. At a time when partisan groups try to shape a judiciary that is responsive to political considerations above all else, we reaffirm our commitment to an independent third branch of government.

This year the national Law Day theme is ***Independent Courts Protect Our Liberties***. All citizens are urged to consider how the courts and the community can better assure judicial independence and our continued freedom.

LAW DAY serves to remind us that the American experiment in self-government requires constant vigilance of purpose in preserving our democratic ideals, chief among them an independent judiciary.

The Superior Court of California, in collaboration with the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the Alameda County Bar Association, and the Alameda County Office of Education, invite students to visit courthouses throughout Alameda County during Law Day week to provide an opportunity for judges, attorneys, and other professionals to talk with students about the rule of law and an independent judiciary.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Harry Sheppard, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda and we, Alice Lai-Bitker, Keith Carson, Scott Haggerty, Nate Miley, and Gail Steele, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 1, 2003, as Law Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand this 29th day of April 2003, during the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of independence of the United States of America.

Harry Sheppard, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California

Gail Steele, President of the Board
of Supervisors, District Two

Keith Carson, Vice President of the
Board, District Five

Scott Haggerty, Supervisor
District One

Alice Lai-Bitker, Supervisor
District Three

Nate Miley, Supervisor
District Four