

Franklin County Courthouse
157 Lincoln Way E.
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Dear Franklin County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division,

We would like to thank you for inviting us to Law Day. The study of U.S. Government is central to our 8th grade Social Studies curriculum. Having the chance to visit the Franklin County Courthouse and watch a mock trial was a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students. It greatly helped to reinforce the importance of our protected rights and responsibilities as U.S. citizens. Your professionalism and the passion you exhibited throughout the presentation was clearly evident and is what made the day memorable. Our students have included letters to thank you and share their personal reflections of Law Day. Again, thank you for inviting our school and giving your time to spend with our students. We look forward to joining you again next year.

Sincerely,



Kristin L. Chilcote



Michael L. Hess, II

James Buchanan Middle School
5191 Fort Loudon Rd.
Mercersburg, PA 17236

Franklin County Bar Association
Young Lawyers Division
100 Lincoln Way East, Suite E
Chambersburg, PA 17201

May 24, 2015

Dear Franklin County YLD,

Thank you so much for hosting Law Day and for inviting James Buchanan Middle School to join. I enjoyed the experience and felt it was fun and informative to see how a trial works. I saw what it would be like if I were to pursue a career in law or even if I was called for jury duty.

I learned about legal rights and responsibilities that citizens have. I never was exposed to The Magna Carta until Law Day, but I found it interesting as a foundation for due process of law. Also, I found it interesting that a motive is not needed in all trials and that before someone can be convicted all jurors must find them guilty 'beyond a reasonable doubt.'

Thanks again for sacrificing your time to arrange Law Day. I'm sure each of you have busy schedules and it's very generous that you spent the time to arrange Law Day. The event is valuable to many students, and I hope you offer this experience to all Franklin County 8th graders in the future.

Sincerely,



Alyssa Blair

Dear Franklin County LLD,

I would like to thank you for providing the opportunity for me to experience how a live courtroom is operated. I learned so much about Trial By Jury. I learned that Trial By Jury means that is a legal proceeding in which a jury either makes a decision or makes findings of facts. I thought the mock trial was ran very smoothly and the case had a lot of parts to think about. I personally believed that he was innocent because there was not that extra piece of evidence that set the case over the top. Although, on our way back my fellow students and I had a discussion on if he was guilty or not.

I learned a lot about how the defendant and prosecutor feed off of each others evidence. They take into account what each other is saying and they try to come up with counter-examples on how that is wrong. In the case presented to us, it was quite interesting. I felt as if he wasn't guilty because the prosecution could not exactly pinpoint where he was at right before the fire. The defendant has witnesses proving he did not go into the Science Lab after he had already walked out. I felt the prosecution did not have a big piece of evidence that brought the case together,

Also, that Trial By Jury would not have come about if it weren't for the help of the document Magna Carta it probably wouldn't be around today. King John was king that was for himself and his own benefit. I learned a lot from this experience and I would like to thank you again for inviting my school, James Buchanan Middle School, to be a part of such an educational opportunity.

Respectfully,

Cass Martin

Cassidy Martin

Dear Franklin County YLD,

During my lifetime, I have always thought about what I want to be when I grow older, but that thought process has always been like a wave of indecisiveness. The jobs I've wanted to do have ranged from fireman to pastry chef. But I believe Law Day has given me the idea on what I want to do.

I thank you for allowing my school to attend Law Day and having it, too.. I enjoyed it so much. Actually seeing and hearing a real trial, not something that has been made from Hollywood, such as Legally Blonde or Judge Judy, made me understand what it is actually like. The trial was well thought out and planned, in my personal opinion. It appealed to us, the younger generation. It was easy to grasp, but it was compelling and interesting at the same time.

The trial wasn't the only great thing that had come out of Law Day, though. I actually learned quite a few things, such as a courtroom vocabulary and what the Magna Carta was. To be honest, I am ashamed to say that I had no idea what the Magna Carta was before Law Day. I also learned my civic responsibility, which is important to know as I approach adulthood.

Even though I have said it before, I thank you so much for such a great opportunity. It was eye opening for me. Law Day made me realize that a career in law is actually a very good choice. I'd never thought about it before, but now that I've seen a mock trial, I know that I'm definitely considering it. I greatly appreciated Law Day, and it was a privilege for me to experience something not all people get to experience at this age.

Sincerely,

Madison Dorsey

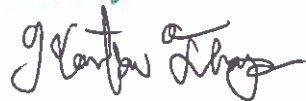


Throughout my whole life I have faced many challenges, seen many wrongs done, and just overall seen what our world is turning to. We, as humans, are turning worse and worse into toil and to immediate pleasure. The judges and juries that we have grown to depend on and trust are seeing this, and those new ones that come are tainted with these habits that they have grown up in. The experienced officials are seeing these changes are for the worse, not the better, and there needs to be a change. I want to be that change, and I could really put some good back into this world through the beautiful system that was set by America's constitution, and here I am pursuing that. I am here to say thank you, and thank you specifically for getting me one step closer to my dream of being a lawyer by giving me a first hand experience in the courtroom through this mock trial.

The realism of the trial was amazing, and definitely not anything like Judge Judy, which I have realized is way too "hollywoodized." This was a mock case that showed us each aspects of the court from the introductions from both sides, to the witnesses and the evidence provided, to the closing statements from both sides, and then the Jury's final decision. It was all very realistic, and I have a much better understanding of how these cases truly worked. I now realize how much I truly learned, and I didn't even know that the plaintiffs were really just representatives of the state! I thought it was always just some citizen who wanted the defendants in jail. Although that happens in some cases, I have learned that every case is just a little bit different than another. I also learned that the jury is the one who has the final say, no matter what, (or at least in the situations that I have learned about.)

Once again, thank you, all of you, for preparing this case, developing it, and presenting it in a way that held my attention, and kept me guessing as each fact was slowly overturned. The story was vivid and realistic, while still holding those "gray areas" for us to learn from and interpret as we saw fit. Although I disagreed against the verdict that was drawn by my fellow colleagues, I am still very happy about the experience. This is one of those things that I will look back on as one of the major parts of my last year at the Middle School. Thank you, once again, for this great experience and I hope this will be an opportunity for many other students in our area for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenton Tharp". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'K' and a cursive 'Tharp'.

Kenton Tharp

Dear Franklin County Youth Law Division,

The mock trial that was held by the Franklin County Youth Law Division was exceptionally well done, in paying attention to the Magna Carta and how it plays a role in American government. By using the small case synopsis brought to the court for selected students to see, we saw justice being brought to those we found guilty or not guilty. I found that the case's synopsis could've gone either way, due to the lack of detail/evidence, making it a fun, debatable topic to discuss together. It really opened my eyes to seeing how equality is virtue in the U.S. governmental basis for American rights.

I found this mock trial to be very informational and debatable. I liked having the insight of a court case and learning proper courtroom etiquette, like having to stand and sit down periodically during the trial in a REAL courtroom. Plus, after the case was presented and tried to be proven guilty or not guilty, there was still talk about the case and arguments about different ideas about the scenario given. Honestly, being able to pull off such a scenario is astounding! All in all, I loved seeing a glimpse into our country's governmental system, along with how American history formed our present.

Thanks for the memories,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kayla Noll-Bader". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kayla Noll-Bader

Dear Franklin County YLD,

I just want to thank you for inviting JBMS to Law Day this year. I found several things very interesting about Law Day. I definitely learned a few things from Law Day this year. Also, the case was an interesting one. I love how the script really didn't have a correct/exact ending. It made the case more realistic.

I learned that being a juror is a very important civic duty. Civilians have to take the time out to attend these things. If jurors didn't show up, our democracy might as well fall apart. I learned that you had to swear in as jurors. This was a very different experience for me. Overall, Law Day was an amazing adventure that I will never forget! Thank you, Franklin County YLD!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendra Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Kendra Martin