



HON. ROBERT J. MILLER  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

Appellate Division  
Supreme Court of the State of New York  
Second Judicial Department  
320 Jay Street, Room 23.71  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

(347) 296-1836  
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February 25, 2015

Daniel Scanlon  
Principal  
John Adams High School  
101-01 Rockaway Blvd.  
Ozone Park, NY 11417

Dear Mr. Scanlon:

Enclosed please find an information package for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Supreme Court Justices of the State of New York essay contest. The Law Day theme for 2015, is "*Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law*." The Magna Carta, or "the Great Charter," was sealed in 1215 and is a landmark social compact embodying a simple but enduring truth: No person, no matter how powerful, is above the law. It is lauded to this day as a symbol of the rule of law and as an inspiration for many basic rights Americans hold dear today, including due process, habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the right to travel.

This contest is sponsored in conjunction with the *New York Law Journal*, and the NYC Department of Education. The essay contest winners will receive the opportunity to intern for a week with a N.Y.S. Supreme Court Justice and a \$100 American Express gift card. The winning grand prize essay will be published in the *New York Law Journal*.

We anticipate, as in the past, that New York State Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, Chancellor Carmen Farina and Mr. Hal Cohen, Publisher of the *New York Law Journal* will attend the ceremony to present the awards to the winners. I hope you will encourage your students to participate.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Miller

RJM:pje

Enclosures

## MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2015

TO: HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, HIGH SCHOOL LAW COORDINATORS

FROM: Vanda Belusic, Executive Director, Office of Postsecondary Readiness Division of Teaching & Learning, Tom Pedleton, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Postsecondary Readiness, Division of Teaching Debra Lesser, Director, Justice Resource Center

SUBJECT: **ESSAY CONTEST FOR 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS**

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The Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and the *New York Law Journal* have partnered with the New York City Dept. of Education to sponsor the Fourteenth annual essay contest for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students. Ten students will win the opportunity to intern for one week with a Justice of the Supreme Court and earn a \$100.00 gift card. A maximum of ten entries from each school will be considered. One of the winning essays will be published in the *New York Law Journal*, a legal periodical published by the ALM.

The Law Day theme for 2015, is "*Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law.*" The Magna Carta, or "the Great Charter," was sealed in 1215 and is a landmark social compact embodying a simple but enduring truth: No person, no matter how powerful, is above the law. It is lauded to this day as a symbol of the rule of law and as an inspiration for many basic rights Americans hold dear today, including due process, habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the right to travel.

**Students should write a 500 word essay presenting a compelling discussion on the topic with special focus on the importance and impact of the Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law.**

The following websites may assist your students in their research – other resources may be used. All sources should be credited.

### **Law Day Topic**

1. <http://www.Lawday.org>

### **General Legal Resources**

1. New York State Courts Legal Research Portal  
<http://www.courts.state.ny.us/reporter/research.htm>
2. Free Online Law Review/Journal Articles  
[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/departments\\_offices/legal\\_technology\\_resources/resources/free\\_journal\\_search.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/departments_offices/legal_technology_resources/resources/free_journal_search.html)
3. New York Law Journal  
<http://www.newyorklawjournal.com>

### **Statutes**

1. New York State Consolidated Laws  
<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/MENUGETF.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS+&TARGET=VIEW>
2. Law Library of Congress  
<http://www.loc.gov/law/>
3. New York Courts Law Libraries  
<http://www.nycourts.gov/lawlibraries/>

### **Case Law**

1. New York State Court Case Law  
<http://www.nycourts.gov/decisions/>
2. Federal Court Case Law  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/opinions>

**The Following Rules Apply:**

The essays should be evaluated at the school. Each school is to submit a maximum of ten (10) essays along with a completed cover sheet (attached). The winning essays from each school should be mailed to:

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,  
APPELLATE DIVISION, SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
320 JAY STREET  
BROOKLYN, NY 11201**

**DEADLINE: APRIL 16, 2015**

Questions regarding this opportunity should be directed to Debra Lesser, Justice Resource Center at (212) 580-5905 or [dlesser@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:dlesser@schools.nyc.gov) or Paulina Ellis at (347) 296-1836 [Pellis@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:Pellis@courts.state.ny.us).

The prizes will be awarded at a ceremony. Date and location to be announced.

**The internship will include:**

Attendance at trials, research with the law clerk, instruction in the use of a law library, education regarding legal terminology in a real world environment, exposure to law-related careers - e.g. court clerk, court officer, court reporter, law clerk, and judge.

The dates of the internship will be arranged according to the needs of each student winner subject to the schedule of each participating Court. Internship dates will be made available during summer vacation.

cc: Chancellor, Carmen Farina  
Publisher NYLJ, Hal Cohen  
Editor NYLJ, Kris Fischer

**Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law**  
**10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE ESSAY CONTEST**

(COVER SHEET)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please type or print legibly)

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S CELL # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL TELEPHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER'S CELL # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER'S E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

***I hereby affirm that the attached essay which I have submitted for the Magna Carta Law Day Essay Contest for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students is the result of my own work.***

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: APRIL 16, 2015**