

Courts Open to Citizens - Dane County Law Day 2012

"No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom."



**DANE COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION**
Serving our Members. Serving our Community.

Come to the Dane County Courthouse on Tuesday May 1, 3:00-4:30 p.m., for Law Day!! Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson will give opening remarks at 3:00 pm in Room L1000 before cake is served. Speak with the Dane County Judges and the District Attorney, take a tour of a beautiful public building, and watch area students put on a mock trial. Bring your children and make it a family event!

Volunteer attorneys will be available 10:00 am – 4:30 pm in the Legal Resource Center (Rm L1007) for free consultations in English and Spanish. All members of our community are invited to come explore the Courthouse. Information will be provided about the work of the courts, the jury process, technology in the courts, and security. Visitors will have the opportunity to stop and talk with judges, attorneys, and court staff, such as Appellate Judge Brian Blanchard, Circuit Court Judge Amy Smith, District Attorney Ismael Ozanne, and Public Defender Dorothea Watson.

People interested in Courthouse tours or middle and high school students who want to be jurors for the mock trial must register by contacting Bob or Le Jordan at Dane County Bar Association by email at law@dcba.net or by phone at (608) 848-1950.

So what is Law Day anyway?

President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the first Law Day in 1958 to honor this great nation's commitment to the rule of law. In continued observance of this tradition, the Dane County Bar Association and Dane County's Circuit Court Judges will host Law Day events to open up the circuit court system to those served by our system: the public. Learn how the judicial system works, discover how the public's rights are protected, and investigate available legal resources.

The American Bar Association theme for Law Day 2012 is "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom." This theme is focused on the important role that courts play in our lives.

"Too many people whose lives are deeply affected by the courts are not familiar with their work. One of the Bar Association's missions is helping the public understand the legal system. The courts are their courts, not lawyers or judges' courts," said Attorney Ruth Westmont, Chair of the Dane County Bar Association's Courthouse Committee.

"We find that many people coming to court are very unfamiliar with how the judicial process works," said Circuit Court Judge Amy Smith. "We hope that people come to court with respect for the law, but without fear of the system. We want people to know how we decide important cases that affect them."

The Dane County Courthouse is located at [215 S. Hamilton St., Madison WI, 53703](https://www.dane.gov/location/215-s-hamilton-st-madison-wi-53703). Contact the Legal Resource Center at (608) 266-6316 with any questions about Law Day.