

PBA 2010 ‘Celebrate the Constitution’ Program Kicks Off in September

September 17 is National Constitution Day. To coincide with the date, this year’s PBA “Celebrate the Constitution” program will kick off the third week of September and run through Bill of Rights Week, the third week in December. This schedule provides an opportunity for school programs throughout the fall, as schedules and curricula allow.

Federal law requires that all schools receiving federal money provide instruction on the U.S. Constitution to students on National Constitution Day. The “Celebrate the Constitution” program helps schools meet this requirement. Each year the PBA sponsors this award-winning program to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the U.S. and Pennsylvania constitutions through engaging learning activities. Pennsylvania lawyers and judges visit schools across the commonwealth to help teach students about the Constitution and to participate in mock Constitution signings.

PBA members are asked to consider contacting a school in their area to share their love of the rule of law and our system of government. If contacted by a school, members are asked to respond with an offer to help.

All participating schools receive free materials from the PBA and the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, including lesson plans and pocket-sized copies of the U.S. Constitution. There are poster, essay and video/audio contests that students can enter to win various prizes. Contest rules and entry forms will be available on the PBA website at www.pabar.org/lre.asp.

For more information, contact PBA Education and Special Projects Coordinator Susan Etter at 1-800-932-0311, Ext. 2256, or at susan.etter@pabar.org. A project of the PBA Law-Related Education Committee, “Celebrate the Constitution” is funded through the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation (www.pabarfoundation.org).