Law Day Lesson Topic: Why we have/need rules and laws.
Lesson Title: Why We Have and Need Laws

Activity:
Read the hypothetical problem aloud and discuss the first question with the class.

Problem:
You are among a small group of persons who have survived a natural disaster in your city and surrounding area. All phone, radio and other communications equipment were destroyed. It appears that your group may have to wait some period of time before search planes can locate and rescue the stranded survivors.

Question:
☐ Do you think that there is a need for any laws in this situation? Why or why not? If so, should some existing laws apply or should your group form its own rules of conduct? Why?

Next:
☐ Divide the class into small groups and give them 10-15 minutes to answer the following questions.
☐ What laws would be most important in such a situation? Why?
☐ Think of five laws that will help your group regulate the conduct of the people within it. Now draft the five laws. How will your group enforce these laws?

Next:
☐ Ask the groups to report and share the five laws they developed and their plan to enforce the laws. List on the chalkboard 15 or 20 examples of laws.
☐ Compare and discuss the groups' responses.

☐ Go back through the list and ask:
  o Are they primarily civil or criminal?
  o Are they federal, state or local laws?
  o Who enforces these laws and what's the penalty for breaking them?
  o Will the existence of a set of written laws be enough to regulate the group's conduct? What else might be needed? Why?

☐ Ask the students to think about these and other laws that affect their lives. Why do we have these laws?

☐ Explain the role of lawyers and judges in the making (i.e., via case decisions) and enforcing of laws.