

## Involving the Media and Legal Community

*After your school has picked a program, it's time to start getting the media and local legal community involved.*

### The Legal Community

Law Day offers your school a unique opportunity to involve members of the legal community in your classroom activities and/or assembly program. Bringing years of legal experience to this project, local judges and lawyers can enhance learning opportunities for your students.

Your local bar association can help you identify judges and lawyers in your community who would be willing to take part in your activities. If you are not already partnering with your local bar association, please call the Pennsylvania Bar Association at 1-800-932-0311, Ext. 2256, to find the appropriate person to contact in your county or visit the PBA Web site at <http://www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/countyinfo.asp>. Make sure to invite these people well in advance of your program. Their calendars fill up quickly. For more tips, refer to "Effectively Using Judges and Lawyers as Community Resources in Your Classroom" found in this publication.



### The Media

The media can help schools demonstrate their commitment to excellence in learning by reporting on Law Day events and activities in local newspapers and television news programs. You may want to consider asking a local television news anchor or newspaper editor to be a speaker at your program. They are great resources to talk with students about the First Amendment and other related constitutional issues.

Below are some tips to help get the media to cover your program. If you are partnering with your local bar association on this project, make sure to work with its staff and members. Local bar associations are great resources because they have established relationships with local media and may be willing to help you with some of the following:

1. Compile a current list of local newspaper editors, TV assignment editors and radio station news reporters. Make sure you have their fax and phone numbers.
2. One week prior to your program, mail or fax your media advisory to the local media (a sample media advisory is included in this packet — feel free to use it and fill in the blanks). Include a contact person on the advisory and a daytime phone number in case the media representatives have questions prior to the program.
3. One day prior to the program, make follow-up calls to the media that received the advisory. Ask for the newsroom when you call. During the call, confirm that they received the advisory. Offer to fax the advisory if it was not received and mention how exciting the program will be for students. It's always good to put in a last-minute pitch the day before or the day of the event.
4. Prepare a news release to give to the media at the program (a sample news release is included in this publication and on the PBA Web site - feel free to use it and fill in the blanks). After the program is over, mail or fax the news release to any invited media that did not attend.

*Inviting local lawyers, judges, legislators and members of the media to speak during your program is a great way for your school to reach out to the community. Your students will enjoy hearing their perspectives on the law and judicial system.*