



Utah State Courts

Judge for a Day Program The American Jury: We the People in Action

What?

Judge for a Day is a program organized by the Utah State Courts to provide high school students with an opportunity to shadow a judge for one day in April or in May. The school selects a student to participate in the program based on a Law Day theme-related essay, civic involvement resume, or a teacher nomination letter.

Why?

Judge for a Day was established to recognize Law Day on May 1. The 2012 Law Day theme is "The American Jury: We the People in Action." The 2012 Law Day theme provides an opportunity to explore the fundamental principle of the American legal system: The right to trial by a jury of one's peers.

Who?

Students will be paired with a judge from in a nearby courthouse for one day. The student will spend from about 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the judge to learn what it takes to be a judge and to get a behind the scenes look at the judicial branch of government.

How?

Submit an application form along with a Law Day theme-related essay, civic involvement resume, or a teacher nomination letter by March 2, 2012, to the Utah State Court's Public Information Officer Nancy Volmer at nancyv@email.utcourts.gov or fax to (801) 578-3843. For more information on the Law Day theme, go to www.lawday.org.

Fifty-two years ago President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed the first Law Day a "day of national dedication to the principle of government under law."

The right to trial by jury is a fundamental principle of the American legal system, secured by many state constitutions and the Sixth and Seventh Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Jurors keep law in the United States from getting too far from the people.