

Midland County Bar Association
Press Release
May 5, 2005

The Midland County Bar Association and the Midland County Young Lawyers Association held their annual Law Day Luncheon on May 5, 2005 at the Midland Center, Midland, Texas. The keynote speaker was The Honorable Robert Junell, United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Law Day was created by President Eisenhower in the 1950s to foster public understanding appreciation of the rule of law and the American justice system. Judge Junell gave the keynote address highlighting the 2005 Law Day theme, "The American Jury – We the People in Action". Judge Junell spoke about the history of juries, their value to the judicial system, and the need for such service in our democratic society.

Both the MCBA and MCYLA presented awards to high school students who had completed essays on the Law Day theme, "The American Jury – We the People in Action". Rebecca Gandy, a Midland High School sophomore, was the First Place winner of a \$1,250.00 cash prize. Kelsey Clark, a Midland High sophomore, won Second Place and a \$750.00 cash prize. The Third Place winner was Blake Morgan, a Trinity School sophomore who received a \$500.00 cash prize. Meredith Thagard, sophomore at Midland High School; Elizabeth Eiland, sophomore at Trinity School; Taylor Davis, sophomore at Midland High School; and Bailey Brown, sophomore at Midland Christian School, each were awarded Honorable Mentions and received a \$100.00 cash prize for their essays. Judge Junell presented these awards as well as Awards of Merit to the 43 students from Midland and Greenwood who participated in the essay contest.

Mayor Canon proclaimed May 5, 2005 as "Law Day" in Midland, Texas as well as proclaiming May 2-6, 2005 as "Juror Appreciation Week". The Honorable L.Stuart Platt gave the invocation. More than 150 people attended Law Day in Midland, including the Honorable Jody Gilles; Honorable David Cobos; Honorable Michael Wallace; Honorable George Zimmerman; Honorable Marvin Moore; Honorable Alvin Walvoord; and Police Chief, John Urby; City Council Members, Luann Morgan and Charles Perry; City Treasurer, Mitzi Wohleking; and District Clerk, Vivian Wood, as well as other honored guests.