



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 15-2656, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING MAY 1, 2015 AS NATIONAL LAW DAY**

**WHEREAS**, Law Day is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share; and

**WHEREAS**, Law Day has its origin in 1957, when American Bar Association (ABA) President Charles S. Rhyne envisioned a special day for celebrating our legal system; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 3, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day by issuing a Proclamation proclaiming it "fitting that the people of this Nation should remember with pride and vigilantly guard the great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law which our forefathers bequeathed to us." Every President, since President Eisenhower, has issued an annual Law Day Proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 7, 1961, Congress passed a Joint Resolution, designating May 1 as Law Day. The theme of Law Day 2015 is "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law"; and

**WHEREAS**, this Law Day marks the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the "Great Charter" issued at Runnymede in England in 1215. Law Day also provides an opportunity to recognize that Magna Carta has come to embody a simple but enduring truth: No one, no matter how powerful, is above the law; and

**WHEREAS**, Magna Carta's most oft-cited provision, Chapter 39, declares, "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions ... except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land." In this provision, Americans can associate the early roots of our cherished due process rights with Magna Carta; and

**WHEREAS**, Magna Carta is an international symbol of freedom under the law and an inspiration for many basic rights revered by Americans, including due process, habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the right to travel; and

**WHEREAS**, Magna Carta has been cited in over 170 U.S. Supreme Court opinions most often in support of due process of law and trial by jury which are legal tenets at the heart of the American justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, Law Day, May 1, 2015, will provide an opportunity to commemorate this "Great Charter of Liberties," and rededicate ourselves to advancing the principle of rule of law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize May 1, 2015 as National Law Day and its theme of "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law"; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Cook County Law Library will be celebrating Law Day 2015 with outreach focused on advancing the principle of rule of law in the spirit of Magna Carta.