



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 17-2430, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MAY 1, 2017 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 the role of law in our society and for cultivating a deeper understanding of 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 has issued an annual Law Day Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 1961, Congress passed a Joint Resolution that designated May 1 as Law Day. The theme of Law Day 2017 is "The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy"; and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, greatly expanded the constitutional protections available to all through its clauses guaranteeing due process and equal protection; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment serves as the vehicle by which many of the protections in the Bill of Rights are enforceable against state and local government actions that infringe upon fundamental liberties; and

WHEREAS, the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is the source of many constitutional rights including procedural protections providing a safeguard against arbitrary laws or unjust court proceedings and includes substantive protection of fundamental rights that are not specifically enumerated elsewhere in the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment constitutionally defined national citizenship for the first time and guaranteed that the privileges or immunities of United States citizenship would not be denied to any individual citizen; and

WHEREAS, this Law Day provides an opportunity to understand how the Fourteenth Amendment, one of the most cited constitutional provisions serves as the cornerstone of landmark civil rights legislation and federal court decisions protecting fundamental rights. This transformative amendment is a source of inspiration for all those who advocate for equal justice under law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize May 1, 2017 as National Law Day and its theme of "The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cook County Law Library will celebrate the Law Day by continuing in its mission of providing legal information resources as a component of access to justice to ensure that all can explore and discover

their legal rights.