

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

S

FOIA Number:

2011-2184-F

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13483
Folder ID Number: 13483-012

Folder Title:
Law Day Proclamation Ceremony, 4/21/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	15	6	6

McGroarty/Legal Council
April 21, 1989
10:00 am
draft 1

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LAW DAY PROCLAMATION SIGNING CEREMONY
THE WHITE HOUSE
APRIL 21, 1989

Good morning. Let me welcome Senator Strom Thurmond and Congressman Jack Brooks, here representing our Congressional Judiciary Committees, and Robert Raven, president of the American Bar Association.

For more than thirty years, Presidents have designated May 1st Law Day, and I am honored to continue this tradition. On that day, we celebrate the American legal system's vital role in helping to maintain the balance between freedom and order -- the principled and yet practical balance that makes democracy possible.

This year, our Law Day celebration will focus on "Access to Justice."

Let me quote the oath every Federal judge takes before assuming office: "To administer justice without regard to person, and do equal right to the poor and the rich."

That oath reflects our nation's deep commitment to equal justice for all: a commitment that every citizen's claim shall be judged on its merits -- not on the basis of his status, place or standing in society. It is the very core of the democratic idea -- the distinction that sets democracy apart from all other systems of government.

We can all take pride in our nation's ability to give life to that ideal. And yet, our work is not done -- the work of ensuring that recourse to justice is within the reach of every individual in this nation. For the poor, especially, the legal process can be a costly, complex, and extremely cumbersome route to the justice they deserve. Today, I call on all of you -- on all Americans -- to perfect the promise of the judicial oath.

Each of you can contribute. Each of you can help people understand the legal system, and to use it responsibly. You can encourage the resolution of disputes without recourse to the legal system, when that serves the interests of the parties involved. And each of you can make the highest standards of justice your own standard.

Let me make a brief remark about an issue of crucial importance to the quality of this nation's legal system -- for access without quality is in the interests of no one. I have submitted to Congress legislation that would raise the salaries of Federal judges by 25 percent -- an increase that is long overdue, and one that is critical if we hope to recruit and retain this nation's best legal talent on the Federal bench.

I urge each of you to give your strongest possible support to see that this measure wins approval.

I will now sign the Proclamation.

**REMARKS: LAW DAY PROCLAMATION SIGNING CEREMONY
THE WHITE HOUSE
APRIL 21, 1989**

**GOOD MORNING. LET ME WELCOME SENATOR STROM
THURMOND AND CONGRESSMAN JACK BROOKS, HERE REPRESENTING
OUR CONGRESSIONAL JUDICIARY COMMITTEES, AND ROBERT
RAVEN, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION.**

- 2 -

FOR MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS, PRESIDENTS HAVE DESIGNATED MAY 1ST LAW DAY, AND I AM HONORED TO CONTINUE THIS TRADITION. ON THAT DAY, WE CELEBRATE THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM'S VITAL ROLE IN HELPING TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE BETWEEN FREEDOM AND ORDER -- THE PRINCIPLED AND YET PRACTICAL BALANCE THAT MAKES DEMOCRACY POSSIBLE.

THIS YEAR, OUR LAW DAY CELEBRATION WILL FOCUS ON "ACCESS TO JUSTICE."

- 3 -

LET ME QUOTE THE OATH EVERY FEDERAL JUDGE TAKES BEFORE ASSUMING OFFICE: "TO ADMINISTER JUSTICE WITHOUT REGARD TO PERSON, AND DO EQUAL RIGHT TO THE POOR AND THE RICH."

THAT OATH REFLECTS OUR NATION'S DEEP COMMITMENT TO EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL: A COMMITMENT THAT EVERY CITIZEN'S CLAIM SHALL BE JUDGED ON ITS MERITS -- NOT ON THE BASIS OF HIS STATUS, PLACE OR STANDING IN SOCIETY.

- 4 -

IT IS THE VERY CORE OF THE DEMOCRATIC IDEA -- THE DISTINCTION THAT SETS DEMOCRACY APART FROM ALL OTHER SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT.

WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE IN OUR NATION'S ABILITY TO GIVE LIFE TO THAT IDEAL. AND YET, OUR WORK IS NOT DONE -- THE WORK OF ENSURING THAT RECOURSE TO JUSTICE IS WITHIN THE REACH OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN THIS NATION.

- 5 -

FOR THE POOR, ESPECIALLY, THE LEGAL PROCESS CAN BE A COSTLY, COMPLEX, AND EXTREMELY CUMBERSOME ROUTE TO THE JUSTICE THEY DESERVE. TODAY, I CALL ON ALL OF YOU -- ON ALL AMERICANS -- TO PERFECT THE PROMISE OF THE JUDICIAL OATH.

EACH OF YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE. EACH OF YOU CAN HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE LEGAL SYSTEM, AND TO USE IT RESPONSIBLY.

- 6 -

YOU CAN ENCOURAGE THE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM, WHEN THAT SERVES THE INTERESTS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED. AND EACH OF YOU CAN MAKE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF JUSTICE YOUR OWN STANDARD.

BUT ACCESS WITHOUT QUALITY IS IN THE INTERESTS OF NO ONE. WE MUST RECRUIT AND RETAIN THIS NATION'S BEST LEGAL TALENT ON THE FEDERAL BENCH.

- 7 -

I HAVE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD RAISE THE SALARIES OF FEDERAL JUDGES BY 25 PERCENT -- AN INCREASE THAT IS LONG OVERDUE. I URGE EACH OF YOU TO GIVE YOUR STRONGEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT TO SEE THAT THIS MEASURE WINS APPROVAL.

THE RULE OF LAW -- EQUAL FOR ALL -- IS THE CENTRAL CONCEPT IN OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

I AM PLEASED TO SIGN THE PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 1ST LAW DAY, 1989.