

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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Public Education and Community Outreach Administrator

## **Students and Legal Experts Interact Live on the Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 Annual Constitution Day Event at the Eagleton Courthouse**

St. Louis, MO, Thursday, September 17, 2015 - The Missouri Bar and HEC-TV are proud to host The Missouri Bar Constitution Day Program.

The program will be broadcast live from the Thomas F. Eagleton Federal Courthouse in St. Louis on Thursday, September 17, 2015. The program will air twice: 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Participants from area high schools will have the opportunity to listen to a panel of experts on the timely topic and to submit their own questions and comments to the panel. The panel members are:

### 10:00 am

- Honorable Catherine D. Perry – Chief U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Missouri
- Jason Kander – Secretary of State, Missouri
- Denise Lieberman – Senior Attorney, Advancement Project
- Mark Updegrove—Executive Director, LBJ Presidential Library.

### 1:00 pm

- Honorable Catherine D. Perry – Chief U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Missouri
- Denise Lieberman – Senior Attorney, Advancement Project
- Stephen Davis – Attorney, Arent Fox LLP, and Adjunct Professor, Saint Louis University School of Law

Schools attending are:

### 10:00 am

- Northwest Academy of Law
- McCluer South-Berkeley High School

### 1:00 pm

- Lift For Life Academy High School
- Clayton High School

In addition, schools from around the county will be joining the conversation live via the web or videoconference.

Interested classes can view **LIVE** via the web at <http://www.hectv.org> and even participate by e-mailing in questions for the panelists. The show will be archived and available at HEC-TV's website.

### Topic:

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Historians generally agree that the passage of the Act, along with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, finally brought to fruition the promises embodied in the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution. President Lyndon Johnson considered passage of the Voting Rights Act and that of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the highlights of his presidency.

Topics will include details on the provisions of the Act itself and the political, cultural, and legal forces that contributed to its passage. We'll explore the Constitutional concepts that were at issue. And we'll gauge the importance of the Act as we discuss its impact on American life at the time of its passage and its continuing impact through subsequent legislation and the voting rights issues and legislation of today.

### Constitution Day:

September 17 marks the anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The 17<sup>th</sup> is designated as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, by the United States government. The civil and educational authorities of States, counties, cities, and towns are urged to make plans for the proper observance of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and for the complete instruction of citizens in their responsibilities and opportunities as citizens of the United States and of the State and locality in which they reside. 36 USC § 106.

### **What is The Missouri Bar?**

The Missouri Bar is the professional body of lawyers for the state of Missouri. The Missouri Bar Citizenship Education program, through the support of its members and with exceptional support from The Missouri Bar Foundation, provides extensive support for classroom learning about the law, the legal system, and the courts. From lesson plans to teacher workshops, The Missouri Bar is committed to helping teachers throughout Missouri understand and explain the law.

See <http://missourilawyershelp.org/events/constitution-day/>

### **What is HEC-TV Live! ?**

HEC-TV is St. Louis' leading producer of education, arts, and cultural television programming. HEC-TV is the only television station in the metro area with the mission statement "to strengthen and promote the education, arts, and cultural communities in the St. Louis Metropolitan area." The station receives major funding from the St. Louis County Commission for Educational Media, and is programmed by the Higher Education Consortium, which is composed of colleges and universities and 62 cooperating school districts in Greater St. Louis. The Board of Directors is comprised of the Presidents and/or Chancellors of the member colleges and universities.

HEC-TV Live! Programming is available for classrooms to view via videoconference, the internet, and cable television. Students can participate live during the broadcast, and curriculum materials are provided to the teachers.

See <http://www.hectv.org/watch/hectv-live/constitution-day-2015-the-voting-rights-act-of-1965-and-its-current-implications/>

**What is the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse, and the Judicial Learning Center?**

The Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse in St. Louis is home to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. The U.S. Courts in St. Louis are committed to public education and community outreach.

The courthouse is also home to the one-of-a-kind Judicial Learning Center. The mission of the Judicial Learning Center is to promote public understanding of the function and value of the judicial branch of government, especially at the federal level. The Judicial Learning Center is both a physical space and a not-for-profit corporation.

See <http://judiciallearningcenter.org/>

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