

PRESS RELEASE

May 1, 2017

Juror Appreciation Week May 1 – May 5, 2017

In conjunction with Law Day 2017, the Southern District of Florida will host Juror Appreciation Week and recognize the contributions of jurors. Juror Appreciation Week is part of the Law Day celebration established in 1958 by President Dwight Eisenhower to commemorate our nation's great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law. Held annually in early May, Juror Appreciation Week is designed to recognize citizens who have served on juries and to send a positive message to the public about the importance of jury service.

Open Doors to the Federal Courts is Law Day 2017's theme for courts that host students, teachers, and community groups. Law Day, which started as a one-day observance on May 1, has evolved into a month-long opportunity for civics education. In keeping with this year's theme, guests are invited to tour our buildings throughout May.

The Southern District of Florida is sponsoring Juror Appreciation Week [May 1-May 5, 2017] to recognize citizens who have completed jury duty and to highlight the honor and importance of serving on a jury.

The right to be tried by a jury of one's peers is of such importance that it appears in three different places in the United States Constitution. It is the only right of citizenship that appears this often in the Constitution. Article III specifies that all criminal trials except those for impeachment shall be tried by a jury in the state where the crime was committed. The Sixth Amendment guarantees criminal defendants a speedy trial by an impartial jury, and the Seventh Amendment preserves the right to a jury trial in civil cases. Additionally, the significance of the right to a jury trial is recognized by most states that have included similar provisions in their state constitutions.

Jurors participating in petit and grand juries during this week of May will be provided special refreshments. Some of our Court's Judges and the Clerk of Court will also participate in juror orientations. The Court will present jurors with certificates commemorating their service. The Court's website, www.flsd.uscourts.gov, will be updated to reflect our juror appreciation and to provide information about the history of jury service.

Please contact Steven M. Larimore, Court Administrator • Clerk of Court, if you have any questions.

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