

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Stephanie Belasik
Director of Marketing, Communications & Operations
716.852.8687, x115
sbelasik@eriebar.org



Bar Association of Erie County Celebrates the Rule of Law During Annual Law Day Luncheon

March 25, 2025 - The Bar Association of Erie County (“BAEC”) will celebrate Law Day on Friday, April 11, 2025, at Statler Buffalo from 12 p.m.–2 p.m. The BAEC is pleased to announce that the Honorable Henry J. Nowak, Associate Justice, NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, will be the keynote speaker.

Law Day is recognized on May 1 of each year by the American Bar Association and bar associations across the nation to commemorate the rule of law and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal system. The 2025 Law Day theme is “The Constitution’s Promise: Out of Many, One.” The U.S. Constitution aims to unite us, despite our differences, by emphasizing our shared civic responsibility. This year’s theme encourages us to be proud of this unifying role of the Constitution, reminding us that we are all part of one nation.

During this event, as is custom, the BAEC will be recognizing several members of the legal community for their impactful community work. The Liberty Bell Award will be presented to Gary Crump, Educator & Lawyer, P.S. 156 - Frederick Law Olmsted. The Justice Award will be presented to Amanda G. Williams, ADR Administrator & Pro Bono Administrator, United States District Court, WDNY. The Police Officer Award will be presented to Police Officer Keith Kwiatkowski, Lackawanna Police Department. The Special Service Award will be presented to Billie Jo Zakia, Chief Clerk, Erie County Courts. The Media Award will be presented to Emyle Watkins, Multimedia Investigative Reporter, WBFO.

We will also be recognizing the Erie County High School Mock Trial Tournament winner.

More information about the event, including a list of our generous sponsors, can be found at bit.ly/LawDay2025.

About the BAEC

The Bar Association of Erie County (“BAEC” or “Association”), a not-for-profit professional association, was founded in 1887. The Association serves its members by educating, pursuing justice, and fostering camaraderie, well-being, and belonging. The Association is a trusted voice and partner in the community, advocates for professional well-being and inclusion, and provides lawyers with the skills and tools to achieve excellence in the practice of law and pursuit of justice. The BAEC is a nonpartisan association made up of over three thousand lawyers and judiciary from varied practices and backgrounds, including lawyers in civil and criminal practice, corporate

and trial lawyers, defense counsel, in house counsel, and those working in government, educational, and nonprofit settings.

###