

Midland County Bar Association
Press Release
May 7, 2004

The Midland County Bar Association and the Midland County Young Lawyers Association held their annual Law Day Luncheon on May 6, 2004 at the Midland Center, Midland, Texas. The keynote speaker was W. Frank Newton, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Beaumont Foundation of America and former Dean of the Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock, Texas.

Mr. Newton gave an address highlighting the 2004 Law Day theme, "To Win Equality By Law: *Brown v. Board at 50*". Mr. Newton highlighted the historical and present day significance of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision by the United States Supreme Court. *Brown v. Board of Education* was the case that fifty years ago ended the "separate but equal" doctrine of segregation of American public schools.

Both the MCBA and MCYLA presented awards to high school students who had completed essays on *Brown v. Board of Education* decision for the Law Day 2004 Essay Contest. Emily Boden, a sophomore at Midland High School, was the First Place winner of a \$1,000.00 United States Savings Bond. Laura Owen, a Midland High sophomore, won Second place and a \$500.00 savings bond. Nicholas Wilson, a Trinity High School sophomore, garnered the \$250.00 third place award. Jennifer Josefy and Arkalya Adams, Midland High School sophomores, were awarded Honorable Mention for their essays. Judge Junell presented these awards as well as Certificates of Appreciation to the 28 students from Midland and Odessa who participated in the essay contest.

Mayor Canon attended and proclaimed May 6, 2004 as "Law Day" in Midland, Texas. The Honorable John Hyde gave the invocation. Girl Scout Troop 471 presented the colors. More than 120 people attended Law Day in Midland, including the Honorable Willie Dubose, Honorable Jody Gilles, Honorable William Morrow, Honorable David Cobos, Honorable Michael Wallace, Honorable Dean Rucker, and Honorable Alvin Walvoord. Andrew Mel, Midland Fire Chief and David Watts, President of University of Texas at Permian Basin along with other honored guests also were in attendance. Law Day was created by President Eisenhower in the 1950s to foster public understanding appreciation of the rule of law and the American justice system