

LAW DAY PROCLAMATION
May 1, 2005

WHEREAS, One of the principles we fought for in the Revolutionary War was the right to trial by jury. The Declaration of Independence denounced King George III's refusal to extend to Americans, "in many cases... the benefits of trial by jury"; and

WHEREAS, A jury of one's peers is a cornerstone of American democracy. Along with voting, it is one of the main ways people take part in the public life of this nation; and

WHEREAS, Trial by jury is guaranteed in the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Amendments; and

WHEREAS, Jurors decide whether defendants are guilty or not guilty, liable or not liable; and

WHEREAS, The decisions that jurors make affect millions of lives everyday and have a profound impact on our economy and our society. By entrusting jurors from the community to decide legal cases-some of them involving millions of dollars or life and death issues-we reinforce our belief that everyday people can make the right decision, and that we are an open, democratic government; and;

WHEREAS, Few activities in our civic life provide such a direct contact with our democratic process as does jury service; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that as we celebrate Law Day 2005, we acknowledge the central role of juries in American life, and we recognize the importance of educating our fellow citizens about the rewards and benefits of jury service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Troy proclaims **Sunday, May 1, 2005 as Law Day**. We urge the citizens, schools, businesses, and media of the City of Troy to use this occasion to dedicate ourselves to preserve and strengthen the jury system. We also encourage citizens to take advantage of the educational opportunities and information provided as part of the **Troy City Attorney's Office 2005 Law Day Program**, including the video presentation embodying this year's Law Day theme, "The American Jury: We the People in Action", and the Law Day displays during the month of May at the Troy Public Library, and the Troy Museum and Historic Village.

Signed this 18th day of April 2005.