



May 9, 2013

## **DC Courts 1st Law Day Talk – on the Emancipation Proclamation – was a big Success.**

On Wednesday, May 1st, the DC Courts celebrated Law Day and the American Bar Association's theme of "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All". This year's ceremony at the DC Courts commemorated the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln.

Prior to the Law Day ceremony, the Courts' hosted a one-hour Q&A session on twitter with Eric Washington, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and Lee Satterfield, Chief Judge of the Superior Court.

The Law Day ceremony began with a brief welcome by Chief Judge Washington and beside the statue of President Lincoln, alongside the Historic Courthouse. "This is a day in which we pause to reflect on the significance of the rule of law for our country and our society. The nation's capital has played a pivotal role in our country's journey towards making sure that everyone has equal access to justice," said Chief Judge Washington.

After the opening remarks, and a rendition of "Oh Freedom" by Debra Swingon-Stokes, the event featured a dynamic lecture by Hari Jones, Curator of the African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation and Museum. Mr. Jones' lecture focused on African American contributions to Emancipation. A true patriot is "one who is willing to ensure that liberty, equality, and the pursuit of happiness are available to all in the body politic," said Mr. Jones. He then delivered an impassioned lecture on the many patriots who contributed to the cause of emancipation.

In closing, Chief Judge Satterfield thanked Mr. Jones and the crowd of over a hundred people gathered on the courthouse steps. "We must think of just how far we—as a city, as a society, as a country—have come in the years since this building and this statue were built. But we must also remember that we are not there yet, there is work still to be done," Chief Judge Satterfield reminded the crowd.

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