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Montgomery Bar Association Presents Awards to Community Members at Law Day Celebration

Norristown, PA (5/3/07): -- The Montgomery Bar Association (MBA) held its 2007 Law Day Celebration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom "A" of the Montgomery County Courthouse. The celebration began with an introduction by President Judge Richard J. Hodgson followed by opening remarks from MBA President Robert E. Slota, Jr., Esq. and the Chair of the MBA Law Day Committee, Michael E. Furey, Esq. New members of the MBA were then introduced and welcomed to the Bar by Marie A. Patterson, Esq. Following the Address of Court, given by the Honorable William T. Nicholas, winners of the Young Lawyers Section Law Day Essay Contest, the winning team of the Montgomery County Mock Trial Competitions, and recipients of the MBA Law Day Awards were honored.

Roger J. Harrington, Jr., Esq., MBA Young Lawyers Section Chair, presented the first and second place Law Day Essay Contest winners, Andrew Foreman of Upper Merion High School and Kyle Crathern of Springfield High School, with their awards. The third place winner, Kelsey Glynn of Merion Mercy Academy, was not able to attend the Law Day Celebration. Mr. Harrington also presented North Penn High School – Team 1, the winning team of the Montgomery County Mock Trial Competitions, with a plaque for their achievement.

President Slota then presented the three annual Law Day Awards. The first award presented was the Henry Stuckert Miller Public Service Award, given to a member of the Bar Association in recognition of extraordinary service to the legal community. Robert F. Morris, Esq. of Morris, Clemm, Heleniak & Associates, P.C., accepted the award for his dedication to the North Penn Valley Boys and Girls Club. For over 20 years Mr. Morris has been on the Board of Directors and for 11 of them, served as President. During his service, the North Penn Valley Boys and Girls Club has grown from 350 members to over 6,000.

The second award presented was the Courthouse Employee Award, accepted by Elizabeth Catalano, Second Deputy Court Administrator of the Montgomery County Courthouse. The Courthouse Employee Award is given to a member of the Courthouse staff for extraordinary dedication and service to the Montgomery County legal system and community. Ms. Catalano has been working for the Courthouse for over 20 years and her current position is the highest county-level position in the Civil Division of Court Administration.

The final award of the day was the Public Citizen's Service Award which was presented to John Wood, Chief of Open Space Planning for Montgomery County. The Public Citizen's Service Award is given by the MBA to a member of the community in recognition of excellent dedication and service to the citizens of Montgomery County. Mr. Wood has been an open space planner for 23 years and has many accomplishments throughout his career. Montgomery County has preserved over 1,000 acres of parkland through his leadership. By the end of 2007, Mr. Wood will have coordinated the completion of over 62 miles of regional trails in the County.

Each year the nation observes May 1 as Law Day in order to educate people of all ages about America's legal system and their rights and responsibilities as United States citizens. The theme for this year's celebration was "Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy". For more information about the Law Day Celebration contact Nancy Hagner at the Montgomery Bar Association by e-mail at nancyhagner@montgomerybar.org or by phone at 610-279-9660, ext. 208.

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About the Montgomery Bar Association

Established in 1885 to professionalize the county's practice of law, the Montgomery Bar Association (MBA) is one of our nation's oldest and most respected bar associations, representing over 2,000 legal professionals in Montgomery County. Now, as then, the MBA exists to uphold legal and ethical standards in our legal community. As the 3^d largest Bar in Pennsylvania, the MBA has a longstanding tradition of service to its membership and the community. For members, the MBA offers an important arena for networking, professional development and education. For the community, the MBA serves as a legal resource offering education, legal assistance and funds and resources for agencies in need. The Association is actively engaged in public service through community outreach, free educational events offered throughout the year, programs like the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project, the Mock Trial Competitions for high-school students, and more. For more information on the Montgomery Bar Association, visit www.montgomerybar.org.