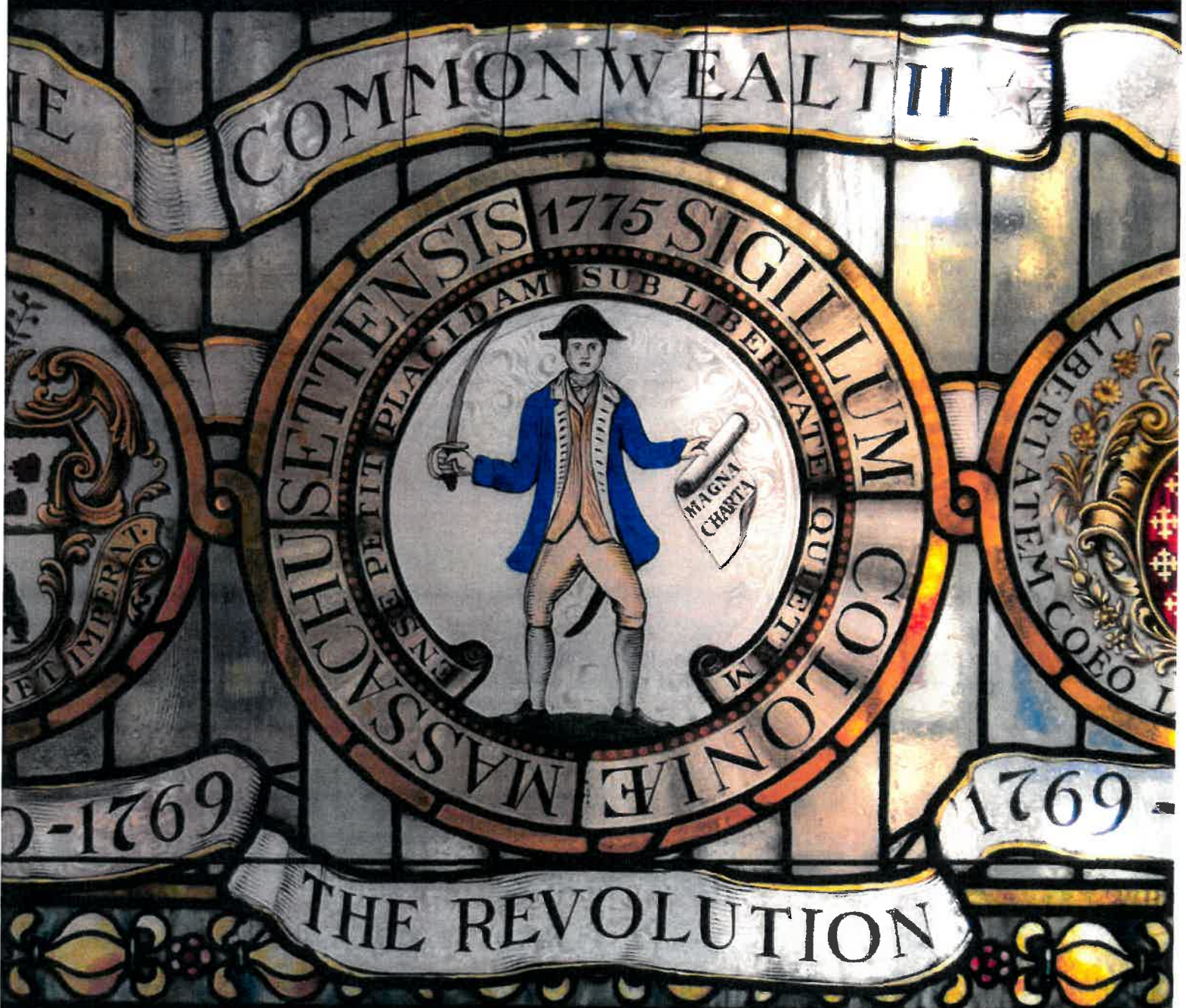


LAW DAY 2015

MAGNA CARTA

SYMBOL OF FREEDOM UNDER LAW



PLANNING GUIDE



Magna Carta:

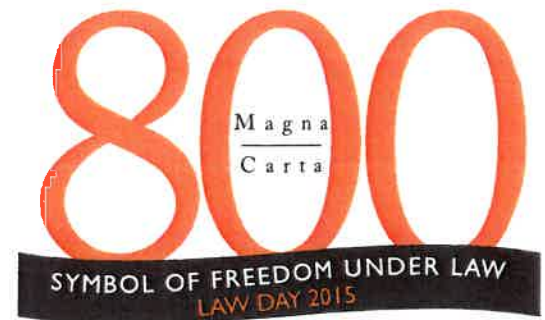
Symbol of Freedom Under Law



Perhaps more than any other document in human history, Magna Carta has come to embody a simple but enduring truth: No one, no matter how powerful, is above the law. In the eight centuries that have elapsed since Magna Carta was sealed in 1215, it has taken root as an international symbol of the rule of law and as an inspiration for many basic rights Americans hold dear today, including due process, habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the right to travel. As we mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, join us on Law Day, May 1, 2015, in commemorating this "Great Charter of Liberties," and rededicating ourselves to advancing the principle of rule of law here and abroad.



What Is Law Day?



Law Day, May 1, annually, is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. Law Day also provides an opportunity to recognize the role of courts in this democracy and the importance of jury service to maintaining the integrity of the courts.

How did Law Day begin?

In 1957, American Bar Association (ABA) President Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C., attorney, envisioned a special day for celebrating our legal system. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law. In 1961, Congress, by joint resolution, designated May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

When is Law Day celebrated?

May 1 is the official date, but many celebrations take place either before or after that date. Some bar associations celebrate Law Week.

How is Law Day celebrated?

Law Day programs are designed to help people understand how the law keeps us free and how our legal system strives to achieve justice. Thousands of Law Day programs are conducted each year for youth and adults across the country. In addition, every year since 1958 the president of the United States has issued a Law Day proclamation recognizing the importance of this day.

Why is a theme selected?

A theme is chosen to provide an opportunity to spotlight a particular aspect of the rule of law or legal process and how it affects our daily lives. Many of the Law Day programs held around the country are specifically tailored to showcase the theme.

Who conducts Law Day programs?

Law Day programs are conducted by bar groups, courts, schools, youth groups, and community organizations, just to name a few. Anyone or any group that wants to spread the important message of the crucial role of the rule of law and the legal process in protecting freedom has the potential to put on a program.

Are additional Law Day resources available?

Yes. In addition to the information that you find in this guide, lots of helpful resources are available on the Law Day website, www.lawday.org.

Whom can I contact with Law Day questions?

Chandra Fitzpatrick, outreach manager for the ABA Division for Public Education, will be happy to assist you with any additional Law Day questions you may have.

Chandra can be reached at **312.988.5720**, chandra.fitzpatrick@americanbar.org.

ABA President's Law Day Message:

One of the most iconic moments in world legal history is the issuance of Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215. That moment has been memorialized on monuments, murals, paintings, and friezes, and it even appears on the bronze doors of the United States Supreme Court. Magna Carta has inspired and been cited by our nation's founders, jurists, and Civil Rights leaders. Magna Carta has rightly earned a prominent place in the pantheon of cherished documents of freedom.

The 2015 Law Day theme—"Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law"—celebrates the contributions of the Great Charter of Liberty. The words of the Law Day theme are drawn from the inscription on the Magna Carta Memorial at Runnymede, which the ABA erected in 1957. That granite memorial stands today as a tangible reminder of our commitment to the rule of law, the connections between Magna Carta and the political and legal history of the United States, and the continuing symbolic significance of Magna Carta in the worldwide struggle for rights.

While much of the text of Magna Carta is dedicated to long-forgotten feuds and obscure legal doctrines, it contains provisions that have withstood the test of time and, in the words of United States Chief Justice John Roberts, "laid the foundation for the ascent of liberty." Magna Carta's most oft-cited provision, Chapter 39, declares, "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions ... except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land." Inspired by this provision, we have come to associate the early roots of our cherished due process rights with Magna Carta.

Over the centuries Magna Carta has become the embodiment of the principle that no person, no matter how powerful, is above the law. Colonists took with them to America the idea that the sovereign must recognize and respect the rights of the individual. During the American Revolution, Magna Carta was cited for its symbolic significance by Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson, among many others.

Magna Carta continues to inform our thinking about rights and liberty. When Eleanor Roosevelt introduced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the United Nations Assembly in 1948, she referred to it as an international Magna Carta for all humanity. Nelson Mandela cited Magna Carta in his eloquent Statement from the Dock in the Rivonia trial in 1964. The United States Supreme Court has referenced Magna Carta in its opinions more than 170 times. In short, Magna Carta has transcended its original time and place and has become an enduring worldwide symbol of liberty and the rule of law.

As we celebrate Law Day on May 1, 2015, let us commemorate this Great Charter of Liberty and rededicate ourselves to advancing the rule of law at home and abroad.



William C. Hubbard
ABA President



ABA President William Hubbard



In 1957, the American Bar Association dedicated a memorial at Runnymede "To Commemorate Magna Carta—Symbol of Freedom Under Law." It was designed by Sir Edward Maufe, and consists of eight columns surrounding a rotunda. A granite pillar is in the center of the rotunda. Photos courtesy of the American Bar Association.

National Law Day Chair's Message:

Magna Carta turns 800 years old in 2015. Many events and activities will mark this auspicious occasion. For example, the Library of Congress is sponsoring a Magna Carta exhibit in Washington, D.C., that will run through January 19, 2015; the American Bar Association, in cooperation with the Law Library of Congress, has produced a traveling exhibit that will be displayed at various locations around the country; several new Magna Carta books have been published, including two titles with the direct involvement of the ABA; Magna Carta-themed video and essay contests have been announced; and a new Magna Carta website (www.iconofliberty.com) will soon launch. The commemoration will culminate in June, when the ABA Magna Carta memorial at Runnymede will be rededicated before thousands.



In a year of so many Magna Carta-related events across the globe, what will a Magna Carta-themed Law Day in the United States add? In a word, plenty. On Law Day, May 1, 2015, schools, community organizations, judges, lawyers, courts, and bar groups throughout the nation will engage in grassroots efforts to educate the public on the continuing importance of Magna Carta as a symbol of freedom under law and a source of inspiration for other great documents of liberty.

The nationwide success of Law Day critically depends upon local leaders like you. Thankfully, that success is only three steps away. To assist you in taking the first step, the ABA's Division for Public Education presents its Law Day Planning Guide, which contains valuable resources, programming ideas, and tips on how to reach different types of audiences. Whether your group is developing a Law Day program for schools, adult education classes, bar groups, courts, community groups, or civic organizations, this guide provides it with the materials you need to plan, publicize, and implement a successful Law Day program.

Utilization of the ABA's Law Day website, www.lawday.org, is the second step. There you will find many more Law Day materials and resources, including a calendar that allows you not only to see how others in your area are marking Law Day, but also to post your own Law Day activities to increase public awareness. Visit www.lawday.org frequently; it is constantly being updated with additional resources and information.

Step three is to take advantage of the wide array of fine Law Day products to help increase public awareness, engagement, and excitement. You can once again turn to www.lawday.org for details.

The Division for Public Education wishes you all the best for your 2015 Law Day planning and stands ready to help if your group requires any further assistance. Whether you are holding a single program or have a month of activities planned, the Division for Public Education will help you get started.



Sincerely,

Stephen J. Curley
National Law Day Chair, American Bar Association

Talking Points

The story of Magna Carta begins at Runnymede in England in 1215, but it does not end there. It is a story that runs eight hundred years forward and is still unfolding. It is the story of our rule of law tradition and of how our American system of government is derived from our English legal heritage.

- The document that became known as Magna Carta was first issued in June 1215. It resulted from negotiations, culminating in a meeting at Runnymede, between King John and rebellious English aristocrats on the brink of civil war.
- The 1215 charter was handwritten in Latin on a single piece of sheepskin parchment approximately 18 inches square—about the same surface area as a 27" computer monitor or TV screen. Its text runs less than 4,000 words—somewhat shorter than that of the original 1787 U.S. Constitution.
- The last line of the 1215 charter refers to a specific place and time of its issue: “in the meadow that is called Runnymede between Windsor and Staines on the fifteenth day of June in the seventeenth year of our [King John’s] reign.” Runnymede represented neutral turf between parties in conflict.
- The most persistent misconception about Magna Carta is that King John “signed” the document at Runnymede in 1215. Rather, to signify his assent and granting of the charter to his subjects, the king’s seal was affixed, after the Runnymede meeting, to more than 40 documents produced by his royal chancery or writing office. They were then distributed to counties throughout the realm of England.
- A would-be peace treaty between the king and the rebellious nobles, the 1215 charter did not survive its year of issue. Pope Innocent III annulled the charter within 10 weeks of its issuance. In the midst of virtual civil war, King John suddenly died in October 1216. The charter was then reissued on behalf of the new king, John’s nine-year-old son, Henry III. This Magna Carta was substantially revised and shortened to about 2,500 words. A second reissue was made in 1217 and a third in 1225. The 1225 issue was the version incorporated into English law in 1297.
- “Magna Carta” means “Great Charter” in Latin. After it was first revised in 1216, a separate charter of the forests, spun off and expanded from the 1215 document, was issued. To differentiate the first charter from the second, the former became known, in 1218, as Magna Carta Libertatum (Great Charter of Liberties) or, simply, Magna Carta.
- There are multiple Magna Carta manuscripts that can claim to be “originals.” Why this is so is a matter of historical circumstance, tradition, and scholarly conventions. In addition to the four 1215 first issues, there survive one from 1216 and four more each from 1217, 1225, and 1297. Just two of these seventeen are outside England, both dating to 1297. They are in the national capitals of Australia (Canberra) and the United States—the latter is publicly displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.
- After 1300, Magna Carta was not reissued—physically produced and disseminated across the realm—but simply “confirmed.” English kings confirmed Magna Carta dozens of times in the centuries following the thirteenth, corroborating its status as an exemplary written charter of good governance and recognition of the lawful liberties of English subjects.



- In the seventeenth century, English jurist Edward Coke interpreted Magna Carta to be part of an “ancient Constitution” that preserved the rights of English subjects, protected by a representative parliament, against the claims of absolutist monarchs. By the eighteenth century, the uncoded British Constitution was seen as including not only key texts from the prior century (1628 Petition of Right, authored by Coke; Habeas Corpus Act 1679; 1689 English Bill of Rights), but also Magna Carta itself—invoked to trace back the deep roots of British constitutionalism.
- The eighteenth-century English jurist William Blackstone developed a numbering convention for Magna Carta, which we follow today. By tradition, the various short sections are commonly called “chapters.” The 1215 Magna Carta has 63 chapters and the shorter 1225, just 37. The famous, oft-cited clause that begins “No free man shall be seized or imprisoned,” which appears in all issues, is numbered chapter 39 in the 1215 Magna Carta and 29 in the abbreviated 1225 issue.
- The 1215 issue of Magna Carta from Lincoln Cathedral became the first charter to travel outside the United Kingdom in 1939, when it came to the United States for display at the New York World’s Fair and then remained in Washington, D.C., for safekeeping throughout World War II.
- Magna Carta has been cited in over 170 U.S. Supreme Court opinions, according to American University law professor Stephen Wermiel, who analyzed 224 years of U.S. Reports of Supreme Court decisions. Of these 170 cases, 28% concern due process of law; 13%, trial by jury; 8% concern how Magna Carta influenced American constitutionalism; 6% each treat antitrust matters and habeas corpus; 5% concern other civil rights and liberties; and 4% each treat cruel and unusual punishment and excessive fines.
- Unlike no other historical document, Magna Carta symbolizes our deep-rooted tradition of constitutional governance and its associated “rule of law” values. These are commonly understood to mean that “no ruler is above the law” and, often, the granting of political and legal rights in writing. Rule of law is often contrasted with rule that is capricious, unprincipled, and inconstant.

Timeline of Magna Carta History

1215

A group of English barons rebels against King John in the meadow at Runnymede, England, and persuades him to affix his seal to a document called the "Charter of Liberties." The articles established a committee of 25 barons to oversee the king's adherence to the document's provisions. In all, there are 63 chapters. An unknown number of copies are sent to officials. Three months later, Pope Innocent III declares the document invalid.

1217

Following the First Barons' War and the Treaty of Lambeth, the Charter of Liberties (known in Latin as *carta libertatum*) is reissued. The 42 chapters are expanded to 47 chapters. During the same year, a fragment of the Charter of Liberties serves as the basis for a second charter, the Charter of the Forest.

1297

King Edward I reissues the 1225 version of Magna Carta. Constitutionally, this version is the most significant. It is still included today, in part, in English statutes.

1423

Magna Carta is confirmed by King Henry VI following decades of successive generations petitioning the English throne to reaffirm the document.

1216

King John dies, and his 9-year-old son, Henry III, ascends to the throne of England. In order to avert a war between Henry's supporters and usurper Prince Louis's supporters, the charter is reissued, sealed by a papal representative, Guala Bicchieri, and the king's regent. It substantially revises the 1215 document. This charter has 42 chapters instead of 63.

1225

King Henry III is called upon to reaffirm the Charter of 1217, now known as *Magna Carta*. This document has 37 chapters and is the first version of the charter to be entered into English law.

1354

Under King Edward III, Magna Carta's benefits are extended from "free [men]" to "[men], of whatever estate or condition he may be," and the phrases "due process of law" for "lawful judgment of his peers or the law of the land" are introduced.

1628

Sir Edward Coke, the first respected jurist to write seriously about Magna Carta, drafts the Petition of Right, which becomes, along with Magna Carta, part of the uncoded British Constitution.



1687

William Penn publishes *The Excellent Privilege of Liberty and Property: being the birth-right of the free-born subjects of England*, which contained the first copy of Magna Carta printed in the American colonies.

1791

Thomas Paine, in his book, *Rights of Man*, argues that Magna Carta does not guarantee rights because it was not a properly ratified written constitution.

1829

Chapter 26 of Magna Carta becomes the first chapter to be repealed under English law.

1941

Magna Carta is secured at Fort Knox, in Kentucky, along with the U.S. Declaration of Independence and Constitution, for most of World War II.

1969

Chapters 1, 9, and 29 are the only three of the 1225 issue chapters from Magna Carta that have not been repealed under subsequent statutes of English law.

2015

The world commemorates Magna Carta's 800th anniversary with special exhibits, programs, and events.

1759

Sir William Blackstone creates a numbering system that is applied to the clauses of Magna Carta, which is still used today.

1816

John Whittaker, an English bookbinder, produces a deluxe gold-blocked edition of Magna Carta in celebration of its 600th anniversary (one year later).

1939

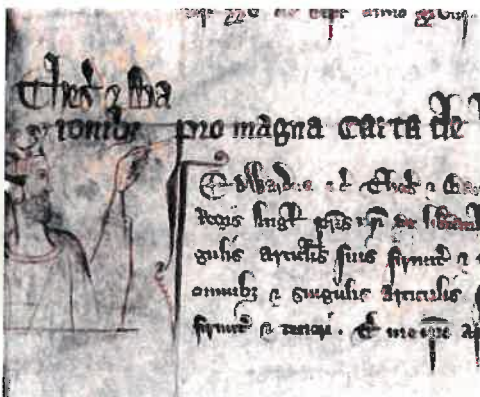
An original Magna Carta travels to the United States for the first time as part of the New York World's Fair.

1965

United States Postal Service issues stamps in honor of the 750th anniversary of Magna Carta.

2007

The only surviving 1297 copy of Magna Carta in private hands is sold for \$21.3 million to American David Rubenstein at auction. It becomes part of a permanent exhibit at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.



Notable Quotes

"The Magna Carta is one of the great symbols, to all English-speaking peoples, of liberty within the law."

Archibald MacLeish ("Deposit of Magna Carta," November 28, 1939)

"We must never cease to proclaim in fearless tones the great principles of freedom and the rights of man which are the joint inheritance of the English-speaking world and which through Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, the Habeas Corpus, trial by jury, and the English common law find their most famous expression in the American Declaration of Independence."

Winston Churchill ("Sinews of Peace," March 5, 1946)

"Magna Carta ... is often claimed to be the cornerstone of English liberty, law and democracy, and its legacy has been its enduring worldwide influence... . It has become an icon for freedom and democracy throughout the world."

UNESCO (Memory of the World inscription, 2009)

"Centuries ago, when kings, emperors, and warlords reigned over much of the world, it was the English who first spelled out the rights and liberties of man in the Magna Carta."

Barack Obama (Speech to UK Parliament, May 25, 2011)

"Our later freedoms were gestating in the [Great] Charter. Establish the rule of law—the idea that the authorities can't make up the rules as they go along—and everything else will eventually follow."

Daniel Hannan ("Magna Carta is the birthright of all English-speakers," June 16, 2014)

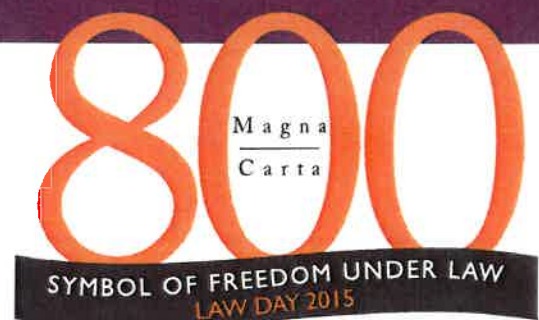
"Magna Charta is such a fellow, that he will have no sovereign."

Edward Coke (Second Part of the Institutes of the Laws of England, 1642)

"In this country, written constitutions were deemed essential to protect the rights and liberties of the people against the encroachments of power delegated to their governments, and the provisions of Magna Charta were incorporated into Bills of Rights. They were limitations upon all the powers of government, legislative as well as executive and judicial."

Stanley Matthews (Opinion of the Court, Hurtado v. California, 1884)





"The Magna Carta, the Petition of Rights, and the [English] Bill of Rights are documents which are held in veneration by democrats throughout the world."

Nelson Mandela (Rivonia Trial Speech from the Dock, April 20, 1964)

"Magna Charta as a great instrument of liberty was the creation not only of its own age, but of later ages that strove for the idea that government is something greater than the naked exercise of power."

Alfred H. Knight (The Life of the Law: The People and Cases That Have Shaped Our Society, From King Alfred to Rodney King, 1996, p. 25)

"The first eight amendments to our Federal Constitution, our explicit Bill of Rights, owes its parentage to Magna Carta; and Americans regard the enforcement of those amendments as the Supreme Court's most important and demanding responsibility."

William Brennan (1985 Rededication Speech at ABA Memorial at Runnymede)

"Magna Carta decreed that no man would be imprisoned contrary to the law of the land. Important as the principle was, the Barons at Runnymede prescribed no specific legal process to enforce it. Holdsworth tells us, however, that gradually the writ of habeas corpus became the means by which the promise of Magna Carta was fulfilled."

Anthony M. Kennedy (Opinion of the Court, Boumediene v. Bush, 2008)

"Magna Carta has risen above its uncertain beginnings. It has been a crucial influence on the development of the rule of law, first in England and then around the world."

Sandra Day O'Connor (Magna Carta and the Rule of Law, 2014, p. xiv)

"Magna Carta has had a profound effect on popular culture. King John, his discontented barons, and the Great Charter remain well-known even as other aspects of English medieval history have faded into comparative obscurity. Magna Carta continues to transcend its times."

Carolyn Harris (University of Toronto, prepared for Insights on Law & Society, American Bar Association, 2014)

"Magna Carta was for England, and later for people around the world, what President Lyndon Johnson said Lexington and Concord were for the American Revolution and Selma was for the American civil rights movement—a turning point—where "history and fate meet at a single time, in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom."

Roger Gregory, (Judge, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, prepared for Insights on Law & Society, American Bar Association, 2014)

"Magna Carta is a shining symbol of our shared legal heritage and of the rule of law as a foundation for freedom and human rights. Today, the story of Magna Carta we should tell is not merely of Runnymede in 1215, but of the Great Charter's enduring significance in the eight hundred years since."

William C. Hubbard, 2014–2015 ABA President (Magna Carta: The Foundation of Freedom 1215–2015, 2014, p. 10)

Suggested Resources

to help you explore the 2015 Law Day theme

Books

1215: The Year of Magna Carta **by Danny Danziger and John Gillingham**

This book documents the life of Medieval England as it takes readers back eight centuries to the events leading up to King John's setting his seal to the famous document at Runnymede in June 1215. The narrative describes everyday life from castle to countryside, from school to church, and from hunting in the forest to trial by ordeal.

Inventing Freedom: How the English-Speaking Peoples Made the Modern World **by Daniel Hannon**

This book traces the birth of the ideas and institutions Americans consider essential to maintaining and preserving their freedoms to tenth-century England.

King John: England's Evil King? **by Ralph Turner**

Before his death in 1216, King John's desperate exploitation of his subjects for ever more money had turned him into the mythical monster of Hollywood legend. This book looks at the early rule of King John and the series of events that led to the revolt of the English baronage and resulted in his grant of Magna Carta.

Magna Carta, 2nd ed., **by J. C. Holt**

This is a fully revised and extended edition of Sir James Holt's classic study of Magna Carta, the Great Charter, which sets the events of 1215 and the charter itself in the context of the law, politics, and administration of England and Europe in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Magna Carta: A Very Short Introduction **by Nicholas Vincent**

This book includes a full English translation of the 1215 Magna Carta, introduces the document to a modern audience, and traces the significant role that it played thereafter as a symbol of the subject's right to protection against the absolute authority of the sovereign. It demonstrates why Magna Carta remains hugely significant today.

Magna Carta and the Rule of Law **by Roy Edmund Brownell II, Daniel B. Magraw Jr., and Andrea Martinez**

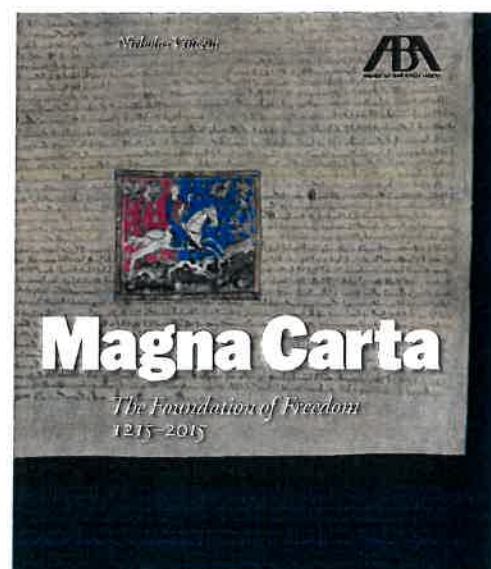
Written by a distinguished international group of scholars, this book marks the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta with an exploration of its background and the profound impact it has had on various important issues and the rule of law.

Magna Carta Text & Commentary **by A. E. Dick Howard**

A classic reference since its 1964 publication, this volume offers the full text of Magna Carta in English, as well as a chapter-by-chapter discussion of its history and provisions.

Magna Carta: The Foundation of Freedom 1215–2015 (ABA Edition)

In this richly illustrated volume, Nicholas Vincent, Professor of Medieval History at the University of East Anglia, is joined by a range of leading experts on Magna Carta from across the world to reflect on the circumstances of its genesis and its enduring importance through subsequent centuries.



Multimedia

ABA Magna Carta Commemoration

This web page from the Office of ABA President William Hubbard features information on Magna Carta–related events that the ABA is involved in throughout 2014 and 2015.

www.ambar.org/magnacarta

Bell Ringer: 1297 Magna Carta, Video, Grades 9–12

This video from C-SPAN Classroom includes a brief history and discussion about Magna Carta at the unveiling of an original copy on public display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Vocabulary terms and discussion questions are provided for the classroom (4 minutes).

<http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/Lesson/898/Bell+Ringer+1297+Magna+Carta.aspx>

Icon of Liberty Under Law

This website catalogs public representations of Magna Carta through multimedia resources such as images, video interviews with scholars and curators, and short essays to interpret the featured images and places. It invites visitors to propose their own ideas for imagined commemorative art and memorials that recognize Magna Carta's contributions to our law, culture, and governance.

<http://www.iconofliberty.org>

“In Our Time” Magna Carta Episode

The BBC Radio series, hosted by Melvyn Bragg, explores the history of ideas. In this 45-minute podcast, Bragg hosts guests Nicholas Vincent, David Carpenter, and Michael Clanchy to discuss the history of Magna Carta and the ideas associated with it today.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00k4fg7>

Library of Congress, Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor

This web page provides information on the exhibition that opened at the Library of Congress on November 6, 2014.

<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2014/14-027.html>



Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Activities

This website focuses on the commemoration activities surrounding the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and a digital map of exemplifications and charter towns.

<http://magnacarta800th.com/>

Magna Carta British Library Website

Examine collection items such as the British Library's 1215 copy of Magna Carta together with a translation in modern-day English. Read an introduction to Magna Carta, learn more about the context of its creation, the people involved, or explore a timeline of its legacy.

<http://www.bl.uk/magna-carta>

Suggested Resources

Magna Carta: Cornerstone of the U.S. Constitution

Unit of three lessons offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities' EDSITEment! offers background to Magna Carta, explores its evolution, and considers its influence on the U.S. Constitution.

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/magna-carta-cornerstone-us-constitution>

Magna Carta MOOC

Developed by Royal Holloway at the University of London, this introductory course, offered via Coursera, examines the historical roles that Magna Carta has played and the importance of Magna Carta today.

<https://www.coursera.org/course/magnacarta>

The Magna Carta Project

This website is an investigation into Magna Carta 1215 and Magna Carta 1225. It features text, translations, and expert commentary along with itineraries and original charters of King John of England.

<http://magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk/>

National Archives Magna Carta Encasement Project

This web page features a short informative video on the 1297 Magna Carta Encasement Project in which National Archives conservators performed an intensive examination and conservation treatment of Magna Carta in 2011 (5:44 min).

<http://www.archives.gov/press/press-kits/magna-carta/>

Selected Writings of Sir Edward Coke, vol. II (1606)

Available at the Online Library of Liberty

<http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/912>

The South Carolina Chapter of ABOTA

James Otis Lecture: Magna Carta

Speakers include The Honorable Sir Stephen Silber, Justice of the High Court of England and Wales, who speaks on "The Differing Perceptions of the Magna Carta—The United Kingdom versus The United States," and Sir Robert Worcester, Emeritus Chancellor of the University of Kent and Chair of the 800th Anniversary Celebration of the Magna Carta Committee whose topic will be "The Magna Carta, 'Foundation of Liberty,' and Its Relevance in the 21st Century." Recorded on September 19, 2014, and available for viewing at:

<http://scetv.org/otislecture/>

Treasures of the Bodleian—Magna Carta

The Bodleian has four of the seventeen surviving pre-1300 'engrossments' of Magna Carta, three of which date from 1217 and one from 1225. The website features a short video introduction of the documents.

<http://treasures.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/Magna-Carta>

For Younger Audiences

King John and the Magna Carta Project of the BBC, Grades 5–7

Online readings, activities, and quiz on the creation, consequences, and interpretations of Magna Carta from Bitesize, a project of the BBC.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/king_john_magna_carta/revision/1/

The Magna Carta: Cornerstone of the Constitution (Documenting U.S. History) by Roberta Baxter, Grades 3–6

Students learn about Magna Carta, an English charter that had great influence on the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as they read about those who were involved in its creation and why studying this primary source is so important.

Magna Carta (Documents That Shaped America) by Janey Levy, Grades 3–5

Short chapters explain the historical development of Magna Carta, the people involved with its creation, and the effects it has had on the course of history.

Magna Carta—Timelines.tv History of Britain, Grades 6–8

How did medieval kings share power with their barons? The story of King John and the signing of the Magna Carta is revealed (6 minutes).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfAq0Lp-AmA>