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James M. Biernat Jr., Chief Judge
16th Judicial Circuit Court,
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42nd District Courts

News



For Immediate Release

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Constitution Day held at the Macomb County Circuit Court

On Friday, September 15, the 16th Judicial Circuit Court hosted a Constitution Day event presented by the Macomb County Bar Foundation. Constitution Day is a federal observance created in 2004, which commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, while also recognizing all those who, by birth or naturalization, have become U.S. citizens. The Constitution Day event at the Circuit Court highlighted the importance of the First Amendment. Approximately 100 students from Utica High School, Stevenson High School, and Henry Ford II High School participated in this event. Following introductory remarks on the history of the Constitution by Judge Carl Marlinga, the students broke into groups and prepared oral arguments with the assistance of volunteer attorneys. The students then presented their arguments to an actual Circuit Court Judge. Chief Judge James Biernat, Jr., Judge Matthew Switalski, and Judge Kathryn Viviano all held arguments in their courtrooms. At the conclusion of the arguments, the judges explained the likely outcome of the cases presented. Professor Robert Sedler of Wayne State University Law School spoke to the students on the importance of Free Speech, and Chief Judge Biernat delivered closing remarks.

Chief Judge Biernat stated “Constitution Day was a great experience for everyone. The students took the event very seriously and did an excellent job of arguing their cases. The importance of the First Amendment to our society cannot be understated; the importance we place on the rights outlined in the First Amendment is unique among democratic societies.”

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Photo: (from left to right) Judge Kathryn Viviano, Chief Judge James Biernat Jr., Professor Robert Sedler, and Judge James Maceroni