

## DISTRICT COURT OF KANSAS

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CHAMBERS OF: ROBERT J. WONNELL DISTRICT JUDGE DIVISION NO. 6 robert.wonnell@kscourts.gov Andrea J. Vallejo (913) 715-3800 150 W. Santa Fe Olathe, Kansas 66061 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT andrea.vallejo@kscourts.gov

Dear Educator,

Thank you for considering participating in this year's Constitution Day event. In 1998, Congress designated September 17 as Constitution Day to commemorate the U.S. Constitution, signed on that day in 1787. The last section of the statute reads as follows:

(D) STATE AND LOCAL OBSERVANCES. -

The civil and educational authorities of States, counties, cities, and towns are urged to make plans for the proper observance of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and for the complete instruction of citizens in their responsibilities and opportunities as citizens of the United States and of the State and locality in which they reside.

36 U.S.C. § 106. Our first Constitution Day event was held in 2016 when a few classes of third grade students filled my courtroom to participate in a trial to determine if Goldilocks was guilty of trespassing. The format (and location) of the event has continued to change as the years passed and is now in a live virtual format that has unlocked the unlimited participation opportunity for any third grader in the country.

The event itself is a model of the three branches of government working together, as civil and educational authorities in Kansas, to bring high quality education to elementary students. We have partnered with Olathe Public Schools to prepare fun and educational preparation packets for your school. I want to encourage you to utilize the curriculum materials as they contain wonderful lesson ideas and helpful videos that will enhance your students' experience on the day of the event. I hope that you will consider joining us on Constitution Day as we educate elementary students across the nation on the responsibilities and opportunities we are all given under the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Hon. Robert J. Wonnell District Court Judge State of Kansas

10th Judicial District