



**Law Day 2008 Essay Contest open to all Flathead 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**  
*"Youth Justice for Kids by Kids"*

**Classroom visits with the Kalispell Peer Court**

The Northwest Montana Bar Association is sponsoring its annual "Law Day" essay contest. "Law Day", May 1<sup>st</sup>, is a time to reflect on our country's rich heritage of liberty under law. As director of the essay program, Diane Conradi invites all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Flathead County students to write an essay, not to exceed 300 words, that explores whether youth should be treated differently than adults when they break the law. The winning essays will be published on the editorial page of the Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Daily Inter Lake. **The deadline for submissions is April 25, 2008.** This year, each essay winner will receive a savings bond--\$200 for first place, \$150 for second and \$100 for third place.

To familiarize children with the subject of this year's essay contest, we are working with representatives of the Kalispell Peer Court to talk to students in classrooms about youth justice. The Peer Court is an alternative to Youth Court that allows first-time youth offenders (excluding felony assaults) to receive sentences such as hours of training and service on Peer Court juries, community service, and chemical dependency classes from a jury of their peers. If you would like to host a classroom presentation, volunteer at the presentations as an attorney, or participate with Peer Court directly, please contact Jen Malloy of the Kalispell Peer Court at (406) 257-7400.

For more information about "Law Day," visit the website of the American Bar Association at: [www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/2008/home.shtml](http://www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/2008/home.shtml). To learn more about the Center for Restorative Youth Justice, visit [www.restorativeyouthjustice.org](http://www.restorativeyouthjustice.org).