Law Day: JCPS Students Try On the “Lawyer's Life”

Community



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With gratitude to the Association of Corporate Counsel – Kentucky Chapter for hosting over 100 Jefferson County high schoolers who explored real life situations of corporate counsel working inside leading Kentucky corporations. Over 20 corporate counsel member volunteers served as "one day mentors" guiding students closer to their dream of becoming an attorney.

(October 28, 2026) For Law Day, more than 100 Louisville high school students got a real-life picture — one built on contracts, negotiations, and the everyday problems that often keep businesses from running smoothly and being profitable, until the attorney steps in to help craft a workable solution.

The event was organized by the Association of Corporate Counsel — Kentucky Chapter and 20 corporate counsel members served as mentors, placing students in direct contact with working corporate lawyers, showing them how the law touches their lives long before anyone sets foot in a courtroom. It was not a career fair with brochures and booths. For one day, the students were the attorneys.

Jack Harlow, the KFC Yum! Center and a stack of contracts

Students were guided through various workplace conflicts, mock contracts, and disputes with one scenario involving Louisville-born rapper Jack Harlow and the KFC Yum! Center where Harlow was

to have a concert. Who owes what to whom when a deal goes sideways? What does a contract promise if a recording artist can't perform a concert? Students and corporate counsel dissected the facts and contracts and came up with potential solutions.

That was the point, according to event leader Ashley Huber, VP for Legal & Government Affairs North America & Corporate Secretary, of Wieland Group. "Most students picture lawyers locked in constant courtroom combat. Law Day is a chance to show students the hands-on, real-world problems that in-house attorneys handle as a matter of routine. Plus, help them envision a legal career path that's completely achievable with a little planning," Huber remarked.





??**ACC KY Board Member and event leader, Ashley Huber, shared inspiring group discussions at Law Day 2026 and was assisted by 20 corporate counsel member volunteers who led case scenario breakout sessions.**

Mentors in the room

The lawyer volunteers were mentors for the day — coaching the mock cases, fielding questions about applying to law school, and explaining what attorneys actually do inside a company — a corner of the profession few high schoolers ever hear about. For Ben Carter, the day was about more than career exposure. Carter practiced law before becoming a pre-law instructor at Seneca High School and he expressed his gratitude for the program exposing his students to possibilities when being placed across the table from working corporate counsel attorneys — it can be career changing. Carter suggested a career is easier to imagine when you have met someone living it.

The students seemed to agree that doing the work beat hearing about it. One senior at Waggener High School said the day gave him a chance to meet successful adults who chose law as their career and to feel the passion they bring to their work. He also shared after attending Law Day he was even more determined to become a lawyer and help people who can’t help themselves. More than that, he said, he wants to be the kind of person who reminds others that they still have a chance to win even when life is hard.



For the Association of Corporate Counsel and a profession trying to widen its doors, that may be the most persuasive closing argument of all. Visit Students explore law careers in Louisville to see the Spectrum NEWS 1 broadcast highlighting Law Day 2026.


IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO
ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO
GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.
—AFRICAN PROVERB




ALONE WE CAN
DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE
CAN DO SO MUCH
—HELEN KELLER
EXIT

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James Patton, LLM, MDiv, FCEP is the CEO and CLO for the Yellowstone Foundation, supporting the Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch, a youth residential therapeutic and wellness program in Billings, MT. He has over 25 years of experience in healthcare, public relations, mediation, nonprofit governance, ethics, and strategic business development. Patton has served as a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) Global Board of Directors, founder and ambassador for ACC's well-being initiative worldwide and founder of the Association's National Community Service Day. Patton is a frequent presenter for bar associations and corporate legal departments on topics of wellness, teambuilding, and organizational resiliency.