

2016

# [American Bar Association Brochure Prepared for the Exhibit]

American Bar Association

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# MAGNA CARTA:

Enduring Legacy

1215-2015

AN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION  
CURATED BY THE LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the granting of Magna Carta, the Library of Congress is presenting the exhibition *Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor* from November 6, 2014, to January 19, 2015. At the heart of the exhibition will be Lincoln Cathedral's magnificent 1215 manuscript of King John's Magna Carta—one of only four surviving original exemplifications from 1215.

To raise awareness about Magna Carta's enduring legacy and to complement the Library's onsite exhibition, the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress joined with the Law Library of Congress to develop the traveling exhibition, *Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215-2015*. The exhibition shares images of objects from Library of Congress collections that illustrate Magna Carta's influence throughout the centuries and explain the document's long history.



The American Bar Association dedicated this Memorial to Magna Carta at Runnymede, England, in 1957. In June 2015, the ABA will be participating in a rededication of the Memorial at Runnymede on the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the original charter.

#### SUPPORT THE TRAVELING EXHIBITION

Your donation will help ensure widespread access by communities across the country. Visit [donate.americanbar.org/mcexhibit](http://donate.americanbar.org/mcexhibit).

#### BRING THE TRAVELING EXHIBITION TO YOUR COMMUNITY

For information, please contact the Standing Committee at [LawLibrary@americanbar.org](mailto:LawLibrary@americanbar.org) or 202-662-1691.

#### FOLLOW THE TRAVELING EXHIBITION ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us at [Facebook.com/ABAMagnaCarta](https://www.facebook.com/ABAMagnaCarta).

#### VISIT US ONLINE

View the Traveling Exhibition, including the companion video, at [ambar.org/mctravelingexhibit](http://ambar.org/mctravelingexhibit).



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ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION  
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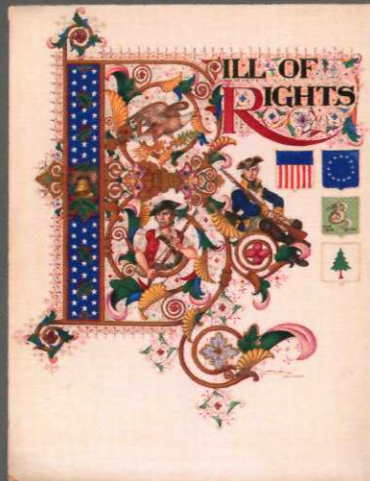


Lincoln Magna Carta  
Courtesy of Lincoln Cathedral

**M**agna Carta is the charter of liberties that England's King John granted to his barons in 1215. In the centuries since its creation, Magna Carta has become one of the most enduring symbols of liberty and the rule of law.

Magna Carta is often cited as one of the founding documents of modern democracy and constitutional government. It is seen as a forerunner of such important sources of the British Constitution as the Petition of Right (1628), Habeas Corpus Act (1679), and English Bill of Rights (1689).

The document also had a profound effect on American colonists. The founders of the United States looked to it as a major influence in the creation of the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, and Bill of Rights.



Bill of Rights (1949)  
Arthur Szyk. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. Reproduced with the cooperation of The Arthur Szyk Society, Burlingame, CA. [www.szyk.org](http://www.szyk.org)

Although in many ways Magna Carta belongs to the medieval society that created it, some of the most important people in our constitutional history have found in it an ancient precedent for the marriage of individual rights and constitutional government that has characterized the rise of the modern world.



Grand Coutumier de Normandie (The Collection of Norman Customary Law, 15th century)  
Law Library of Congress



The Second Part of the Institutes of the Laws of England (1681)  
Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress

Magna Carta's admirers have seen in it the origin of many enduring constitutional principles: the rule of law, the right to a jury trial, the right to a speedy trial, freedom from unlawful imprisonment, protections from unlawful seizure of property, the theory of representative government, the principle of "no taxation without representation," and most importantly, the concept of fundamental law—a law that not even the sovereign can alter.

# MAGNA CARTA:

## Enduring Legacy

1215-2015

was developed by

ABA STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress was created in 1932 to serve as the Association's voice concerning the continued development, enhancement, and operation of the Law Library of Congress.

Working in collaboration with the Law Librarian and other interested parties, the Standing Committee facilitates efforts to increase funding for the Law Library as well as to increase Law Library visibility through educational and scholarly programs of special interest to the legal community.

[ambar.org/lawlibrary](http://ambar.org/lawlibrary)

LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Law Library of Congress was created by statute in 1832 to provide the United States government with a comprehensive collection of law resources for legal research. It now contains the largest collection of law books and resources in the world. Its collection of rare books documents the history of the Western legal heritage in approximately 60,000 volumes, dating from as early as the twelfth century.

Today the Law Library provides specialized research services to the United States Congress and other branches of the federal government, and reference services to the legal community, professional researchers, and the general public.  
[law.gov](http://law.gov)

