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MAGNA CARTA'S 800TH ANNIVERSARY TO BE COMMEMORATED AT THE KENTUCKY STATE FAIR

LOUISVILLE, KY (June 12, 2015) – On June 15, 1215, a coalition of disgruntled barons met King John at Runnymede, a wetland meadow along the Thames River near London. Under the threat of civil war, the King applied his royal seal to their list of demands—a document that would become known as Magna Carta, the “Great Charter.”

Magna Carta—often called the greatest constitutional document of all time and the very foundation of freedom—is the point of origin for many constitutional principles that are fundamental to the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

To commemorate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the Kentucky State Fair Board is hosting “Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215-2015,” a traveling exhibition developed by the American Bar Association and curated by the Law Library of Congress. The exhibition features sixteen storyboard panels and a video of the Law Librarian of Congress and the Rare Books Curator handling and discussing original charter artifacts. The State Fair is the only Kentucky stop on the exhibition’s national tour.

Funding for “Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy” in Kentucky is provided by the Louisville Bar Association and the Kentucky Bar Association (Small Firm Section and Young Lawyers Division). Attorneys from across the state will serve as volunteer docents in the exhibition, helping visitors have a fun and engaging experience.

The Magna Carta exhibits will be adjacent to an original exhibition about Kentucky’s Constitution, in South Wing B. The state-focused project was inspired by the Magna Carta anniversary and will carry the ancient document’s principles forward, to our constitutional government today. “From the ‘Powers That Be’ to the Power of WE: Exploring Our Constitution” features storyboard panels, artifacts, and interactive media.

In addition, an entertaining 30-minute musical production, “The Great Charters of Liberty,” will bring the stories of these great charters, from Magna Carta to Kentucky’s Constitution, to life each day of the Fair. The Kentucky components are funded in part by the Kentucky Bar

Association (Family Law, Business Law, Health Care Law, and Public Interest Law Sections) and by a grant awarded by the Kentucky Bar Foundation.

The Kentucky State Fair is August 20-30 at the Kentucky Exposition Center. For more information, go to www.kystatefair.org.

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ABOUT THE KENTUCKY STATE FAIR

The Kentucky State Fair is an 11-day celebration of the history, heritage and culture of the Bluegrass State. More than 600,000 attend America's largest indoor fair, which uses over 1.2 million square feet of contiguous exhibit space at the Kentucky Exposition Center. While its roots are in agriculture, the Kentucky State Fair has grown into a trade and public education exposition, as well as a major entertainment venue. The World's Championship Horse Show, held during the Fair, is the world's richest and most prestigious Saddlebred show. Attendees and exhibitors contribute over \$15.3 million annually in economic impact. The Kentucky State Fair & World's Championship Horse Show are owned and produced by the Kentucky State Fair Board, an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.