

Washington Lawyer

Legal Beat: April 2014

D.C. Courts Celebrate Black History Month



The D.C. Courts celebrated Black History Month in February with weekly performances and events.

One of this year's events was "Mystery Game" in which each day in February, court employees were given a clue that collectively told a story of a slave being auctioned, sold, and eventually emancipated. This fictional story was based on historical facts surrounding events that happened in Judiciary Square during the 20-year period beginning in the 1840s, including the trial of

Captains Daniel Drayton and Edward Sayres that occurred in the District of Columbia's Old City Hall, which is currently the Historic Court of Appeals.

Drayton and Sayres were tried for their assistance in one of the United States' largest recorded attempted slave escapes.—K.A.