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**AG MARSHALL PRESENTS ADVENT EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
WITH 2016 SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steven T. Marshall today presented Advent Episcopal School in Birmingham with the 2016 Attorney General’s Safe School Initiative Award of Excellence for private school in the northern region of Alabama. Schools were selected as winners from seven* Alabama State School Board of Education districts, as well as private schools for two regions of the state.

“I am pleased to carry forward an important tradition of the Attorney General’s Office, to recognize schools throughout our state for dedication and excellence in keeping students safe,” said Attorney General Marshall. “Each day that parents leave their children at school, they are entrusting what they hold most precious into the care of schoolteachers, principals and other staff. With these awards, we honor those who have achieved particularly high standards and set examples that others may follow. We are grateful for their service and commitment to protecting the children of Alabama.”

“The Attorney General’s Office is proud that Advent Episcopal School was selected as one of the nine winning schools in Alabama for 2016,” said Attorney General Marshall. “In making this decision, judges noted many things that distinguished Advent Episcopal School: its CAPS program, a strong plan that is inclusive of law enforcement, excellent use of technology, impressive web-based communication system and good student involvement.”

“This award recognizes that Advent understands the importance of the physical and emotional security of those in our charge,” said Headmaster W. Palmer Kennedy. “While we have a staff that is responsible daily for measures that protect our children, our Advent community appreciates that safety is everyone’s responsibility. On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to thank our parents for their trust and support. I would like to thank our community for providing the resources that allow us to enhance our facilities and enrich our student’s programs. We are all interconnected and one of our greatest strengths is the support we give each other.”

Attorney General Marshall is presenting awards for the 2016 Safe School Awards of Excellence winners to the nine winning schools during April and May. Other winning schools throughout the state include Helena Middle School in Shelby County, Pike County High School, Orange Beach Elementary School in Baldwin County, Opelika Middle School in Lee County, Forest Hills Elementary School in Lauderdale County, Bob Jones High School in Madison County, Coosa Valley Academy in Shelby County and Moody Middle School in St. Clair County.

**Alabama has eight public school districts but no submissions were received from District 4, nor a southern district private school.*

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