

Courts and Communities Resource List

I. Lesson Plans

- Federal Judge's Association (Recommended by Judge Marjorie Rendell)
 - <http://www.federaljudgesassoc.org/section/subsection.php?structureid=27>
 - Under this link are ten ideas for lesson plans. Some are designed to be taught in a classroom, while others are designed for a courtroom setting. The majority of plans are geared toward high school students and adults, but there are three lesson plans that are intended for elementary to middle school students - Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, Heritage Months, and The Bill of Rights in Your Life.
 - <http://www.federaljudgesassoc.org/section/subsection.php?structureid=22>
 - Under this link are more, but less structured, ideas for lesson plans. There are resources about the structure of the American government, the Constitution, and about landmark cases that can be used in conjunction with any other lesson plan or can be the basis of its own lesson plan.
- Administrative Office of U.S. Courts (Recommended by Judge Cynthia Rufe and Judge Kent Jordan)
 - <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-informed/federal-court-resources/about-educational-outreach.aspx>
 - Toward the bottom, under "Interactive Learning Experiences," there are three links for lesson-plans, one for Constitution Activities, one for Federal Court Activities, and one for Legal Concepts.
 - <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-involved.aspx>
 - This site offers a variety of lesson plans for students who are visiting a court or learning about the Constitution, including introductory lessons to the structure of the United States government.
- iCivics (Recommended by Judge Marcia Krieger)
 - <https://www.icivics.org/products/curriculum-units>
 - At this address, there are several ready-made "curriculum units" that include lesson plans, games, and other ideas and tools for interactive teaching. The subjects include government structure, civil rights, and the Constitution. Under this link you can click on any of the subjects to access the various materials for each module.

- <https://www.icivics.org/products/games>
 - This address provides games designed to help students understand and learn about government and politics. Most games are available only to play online through the iCivics website.
- The American Judicature Society (Recommended by Judge Marcia Krieger)
 - <https://www.ajs.org/public-education/>
 - Under this link, on the left side, there are tabs that lead the reader to various sections offering lesson plan ideas for different topics and varying age groups, as well as links to other education programs that provide models to use in creating your own program.
- Street Law (Recommended by Judge Patty Shwartz)
 - http://www.streetlaw.org/en/resource_library
 - There are dozens of lesson plans under this link that can be geared toward any level of schooling. On the right hand side is a list of categories that can be used to narrow a particular search. For example, if you are searching for a lesson plan pertaining to judicial nominations simply check a box in each category: narrow your search by “type” by checking the “lesson plan/activity” box, and by subject by checking the box labeled “judicial nominations.” You may also restrict your search to only free materials, leaving two options to choose from.
- The Ninth Circuit Courts & Communities Committee Video
 - <http://community.ce9.uscourts.gov/community-outreach/general-information/video>
 - This video provides classroom activities and ideas for analyzing *Gideon v. Wainwright*.
- Federal Magistrate Judges Association (<http://new.civiced.org>), which provides lesson plans as well as games for students to learn about the government.
 - <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum>
 - There are lesson plans on the following topics: [9/11 and the Constitution](#); [Constitution Day & Citizenship Day](#); [Lesson Plans](#); [Presidents' Day Lessons](#); [Washington](#), [Madison](#); [Lincoln](#), [Reagan](#), [Mason](#); [Martin Luther King Jr Day](#); [Black History Month](#); [Women's History Month](#); [Voting](#) and more.
- You can get to the lesson plans by going to the homepage (by clicking the link above) and then under “community” you can choose “lesson plans” under the “teachers” category. You can also get there by clicking on the following link.

(<http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/lesson-plans>). The other way to get to “lesson plans” is by clicking on the “resources” tab at the top of the homepage and then “lesson plans.” Or, if you know the particular lesson plan you want to locate, you can just click on the name of the lesson plan under “resources.”

(<http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum>)

- ABA Civics “Division for Public Education”
 - (<http://www.americanbar.org/groups/civics>)
 - Lesson plans for children in elementary school through high school, divided by grade.
- Ex: lesson plan on Brown v. Board of Education geared to K-3;
 - Lesson plans on the First Amendment:
 - [Introducing the First Amendment \(Grades 4-6\)](#); [The First Amendment: Free Speech \(Grades 7-12\)](#); [Political Signs and the First Amendment \(Grades 7-12\)](#); [Regulating Electronic Speech \(Grades 7-12\)](#)
- You can get there by clicking on any of the links above or by clicking on the following link:
(http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/constitution_day.html)
 - Lesson Plans on the Constitution:
(http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/constitution_day/lessons.html)
 - Includes presentations, each one hour or less, that lawyers, teachers, and other professionals might take into classrooms or community meetings to lead discussions about the Constitution.

II. Websites and Links

- Federal Judge’s Association (Recommended by Judge Marjorie Rendell)
(<http://www.federaljudgesassoc.org/>)
 - In the upper left hand corner is a link that says “Civics Education.” Under this heading is a host of sub-topics which provide activities, resources, and contacts for civics education programs.
- The Ninth Circuit Courts & Community Committee
(<http://community.ce9.uscourts.gov/>)
 - This site provides several ideas for outreach and education, as well as hosting a blog focused on public civic engagement.
- The American Judicature Society (<https://www.ajs.org/>)
 - On the left-hand side of the homepage, click on the public education tab for outreach ideas, curriculum planning, and other resources.
- Our Courts America (Recommended by Judge Marcia Krieger)
(<http://ourcourts.org/>)

- Click on the most right hand tab at the top of the page, titled “Resources” for links to many other organizations and websites focusing on public civic education.
- Administrative Office of U.S. Courts (www.uscourts.gov) (Recommended by Judge Marcia Krieger)
 - At the home page, look across the horizontal menu at the top of the page and click on “Educational Resources.”
 - You can also get there by typing the following link directly into your browser: <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources.aspx>
 - On the right-hand side, towards the top of the page, there is a box which contains four tabs:
 - (1) “About Programs” - describing the interactive, experiential learning opportunities offered on the site.
 - see [Lesson Plans](#).
 - (2) “Learning Tools” - giving information on how to make arrangements to visit a courthouse and providing links to information about legal proceedings. This is information that would be most helpful to schools and teachers hoping to further involve their students in civics education.
 - (3) “Civic Engagement” - providing links to specific simulations and activities that teach about Constitutional law and the legal process.
 - see [Lesson Plans](#) and [Constitution Day](#).
 - (4) “FAQs” - providing answers for frequently asked questions about the federal courts, and how judges are selected and serve.
 - This site contains a number of pre-packaged teaching ideas geared to 10th graders through college students
- iCivics (<https://www.icivics.org/>)
 - Founded by Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, this nonprofit is dedicated to promoting and supporting civic education. This site contains informational and educational resources for presenters.
- Federal Magistrate Judges Association
 - Containing materials on civic education and links to iCivics, which has games for students about the government.
 - see <http://new.civiced.org>
 - At the homepage you can click on any of the tabs to find what you are looking for.
 - For example: Under “Community” you can click on “students,” which will bring you to a page explaining

the various resources available. The [We the People Resource Center](#) for high school students contains a variety of links to [biographies](#), [historical documents](#), images, and first-hand [accounts](#) of the events that influenced our nation's history. You can get there by clicking on the links above.

- Under “students” there is also a link to educational games that help students learn about the government and our nation’s history. (<http://new.civiced.org/wtp-media/multimedia/games>)
- If you click on “Community” and then click on “teachers”, there are a variety of resources for teachers to use such as lesson plans (see “lesson plans”). There are also “teacher links” to various resources about other civic education organizations, historical documents, national standards, public policy, voting and elections, and general resources.
 - (<http://new.civiced.org/community/teachers/teacher-links>)
- American Bar Association (www.americanbar.org)
 - Materials explaining the impartiality of the courts and the importance of judicial independence. This website was recommended by Judge Marcia Krieger.
 - Click on “ABA Groups” at the top, then “Justice Center” on the left, then “Standing Committee on Judicial Independence”.
 - You can also get here by typing the following into your browser:
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/justice_center/judicial_independence/resources.html
 - Civics Division within which there is a “Division of Public Education”
 - see <http://www.americanbar.org/groups/civics>
 - see [Programs](#) and [Lesson Plans](#)
- Street Law, Inc. (www.streetlaw.org)
 - Click on Programs on the top, which will take you to a page and on the right-hand side there are numerous links to various programs (see [“Programs”](#))

III. Further Reading

- Judicial Outreach on a Shoestring: A working Manual by Judge Richard Fruin (Available for purchase on Amazon at http://www.amazon.com/Richard-Fruin/e/B001K8KBRS/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0)
 - This book is a guide to judicial outreach written by a judge in Los Angeles.
 - This book was recommended by Lynn Hecht Schafran of the National Judicial Education Program, Legal Momentum
- “Adult Education about the Courts -- the Need and Possibilities” by Hon. Marcia S. Krieger
- The Ninth Circuit Courts & Communities Blog (<http://courtscommunity.blogspot.com/>)
- Randall T. Shepard Academy for Law and Social Justice
 - The Indiana Supreme Court initiated a student program for high school students who visit the courthouse for half of each school day to learn from judges and clerks methods of conducting research. Upon completion of the semester, students have the option of earning college credit.
 - <http://www.evscschools.com/academics-and-programs/innovative-school-models/randall-t-shepard-academy-law-and-social-justice>
 - Recommended by Lynn Hecht Schafran of the National Judicial Education Program, Legal Momentum
- Press Packets:
 - Court by court press packets with information on the courts, including judicial biographies and court calendars. This could be available online and there could also be a hard copy available in the Clerks’ offices.

IV. Programs

Law Day:

- Judges and attorneys can assume the courtroom roles to give high school students a first-hand experience of jury service.
 - For a sample event description, visit: http://community.ce9.uscourts.gov/images/stories/general/law_day/CAC_invite_reg_form.pdf
- Judges can sponsor an essay contest on a particular theme that highlights how the legal process supports and upholds many of our freedoms.
 - To see a sample theme and contest guidelines, visit: http://community.ce9.uscourts.gov/images/stories/general/law_day/GUAM_essay_contest.pdf
- For younger children, an art contest based on the same theme can replace the essay contest.

- To see sample contest guidelines, visit:
http://community.ce9.uscourts.gov/images/stories/general/law_day/GUAM_art_contest.pdf
- The Utah State courts have also sponsored a “Judge for a Day” program in conjunction with a Law Day essay contest. Students are selected based on their Law Day essay submissions. The winner shadows a Judge for one day to learn more about the Judge’s duties and role in the judicial system.
 - For more information, see:
<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/pdf/Judge%20for%20a%20Day%20Flyer-2008.pdf>
- The Middle District of Pennsylvania also participates in Law Day by hosting speakers on topics related to law and justice. The local bar association has an elementary school poster contest, mock trial awards, and a follow-up reception in the federal building atrium. Many federal judges also participate. This information was provided by Judge Malachy Mannion.
- The Eastern District of Pennsylvania uses the AO programs as a base resource for the Law Day programs. Programs have included such legal issues as telephone surveillance, texting while driving, and *Gideon*. Students participate in mock trials and appellate arguments, and utilize volunteer judges and lawyers in all three courthouses in the District. Information provided by Judge Cynthia M. Rufe.

Constitution Day (September 17th)

- Federal Judge’s Association
 - <http://www.federaljudgesassoc.org/section/subsection.php?structureid=27>
 - Number Six on this list has a short video intended for all ages about the Constitution and is designed for viewing on Constitution Day.
 - <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-involved.aspx>
 - Under “Constitution Activities” are different classroom experiences designed to further acquaint students with the Constitution.
- Invite high school students to the courthouse for mock trials (see “Mock Trial”) and other programming (see “Programs”)

Summer Internships

- Some courts offer internship opportunities to students at the courthouse.
- Examples:
 - Arizona Superior Court “Courts Are Us”
<http://www.sc.pima.gov/?tabid=213>
 - Massachusetts Bar Association “Judicial Youth Corps”
<http://www.massbar.org/publications/e-journal/2007/june/628/judicial-youth-corps/>

Judges in the Classroom

- Judges can use lesson plans on civics (see “Lesson Plans”) or other teaching tools to educate students of all ages about the judicial system.
- Examples:
 - Washington Courts LRE program.
<http://www.courts.wa.gov/education/?fa=education.geninfo>
 - The John Marshall Foundation’s “Justice in the Classroom” program.
<http://www.johnmarshallfoundation.org/education-programs/justice-in-the-classroom/>

Naturalization Ceremonies:

- Include the children of those gaining citizenship by inviting them to participate in the ceremony and administering the Oath of Allegiance to the children.
 - Recommended by Judge Cynthia Rufe.
- Chief Judge Wilma Lewis reports that the District Court of the Virgin Islands holds naturalization proceedings with presentations made by the hosting judges and guest speakers to commemorate the occasion.
- Examples:
 - “Citizenship Day” Naturalization Ceremony
 - “Constitution Day” Naturalization Ceremony
 - Ex: The Philadelphia Bar Association sponsors EDPA naturalization ceremonies and guest speakers appear to share the occasion with the new citizens. The EDPA has also partnered with the National Constitution Center since 2003 to present naturalization ceremonies on “Citizenship Day” and “Constitution Day”, which are held in the Ceremonial Courtroom.
 - “Bill of Rights Day” Naturalization Ceremony
 - Ex: EDPA Judges host high school students in the courthouse and present a brief lecture on the history of federal courts and discuss citizenship and naturalization issues. Following ceremony, the students attend a lunch in the Jury Administration Room with members of the Court, who field questions about what the students observed and other aspects of the federal court. The program can easily be modified to accommodate elementary and/or middle school students.
 - Can be modified around any naturalization ceremony, such as “Martin Luther King Day”, “Presidents’ Day” and “Law Day”

Take Your Child To Work Day:

- Federal employees (not just court personnel) bring their children for tours, a visit to the cell block, a role in a mock trial, and an opportunity to hear from speakers. Often a light lunch or breakfast is provided.

- Ex: The District of New Jersey had a “take your child to work day” and the children heard from a Bankruptcy Judge and a canine officer this past year.
- For more ideas about courthouse activities for kids see:
 - <http://community.ce9.uscourts.gov/community-outreach/142-bring-child-work-sd2013>
- Recommended by Judge Patty Shwartz, Judge Malachy Mannion, and Judge Esther Salas

Art in the Courthouse:

- Some courthouses, such as the District of New Jersey’s Trenton Courthouse, have space on the main floor that is used for art exhibits that are open to the public. Exhibits have included the paintings/photography by lawyers and members of the court family, as well as a local artist.
- The District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania has implemented a similar program.
- Recommended by Judge Nora Barry Fischer of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and by Judge Patty Shwartz of the Third Circuit.

Art Competitions

- The District Court of the Virgin Islands holds an art competition for elementary school students, who submit artwork on crime prevention and drug prevention themes. The artwork is judged by judges and members of the Court family, and is displayed in the jury assembly room. The event is also covered by local news media.

Essay Contests

- Courts can hold essay contests for students in the district. A different winner can be chosen from each grade or each school level, and judges can select the top essays and award prizes. The Federal Judges Association sponsored a nationwide contest on the topic “What a Fair and Impartial Judiciary Means to Me and the United States.” Other topics can include “Why Jury Duty is Important,” “How the Role of the Judiciary Affects the Average Citizen,” or any other judiciary-related topic.
 - This information was recommended by Judge Marjorie Rendell.

Student Group Visits:

- These can occur as a result of efforts by or requests to individual judges and can include anything from students participating in a mock trial, sitting in a hearing, listening to a speaker, or simply getting a tour of the courthouse.
 - Ex: Judge Maryanne Trump Barry hosts a visit by a New York City school each year and arranges for a speaker to meet with the students. Other judges have hosted scouting troops, as well as given tours of the historical courthouse.

- Ex: Judge Nora Barry Fischer in the Western District of Pennsylvania reports that the WDPA openly solicits tours by sending “blast” emails to local area school districts inviting them to tour the courthouse. The website for the District Court also has links to virtual tours of each floor.
- Ex: Chief Judge Lewis of the District Court of the Virgin Islands hosts visits by encouraging teachers and other school administrators to make requests to an individual judge to visit the courthouse. Judges, probation officers, deputy clerks, marshals, a court reporter, and the law librarian, speak with the students.
- Also recommended by Judge Patty Shwartz.

Visits to Schools

- Courthouses can send representatives to schools or single classrooms and speak to students. The District Court of the Virgin Islands makes these visits periodically and often participates with the Office of Probation, showing a video to the students and discussing the issues presented in the video.
- Judge Malachy Mannion reports that there is an annual program hosted by the Middle District of Pennsylvania called “Lawyers in Classrooms” in which judges and lawyers travel to local elementary school classrooms to discuss how our legal system works.

Mentor Days

- The District Court of the Virgin Islands invites students to visit the courthouse, where the students are individually paired with a member of the courthouse family -- judge, marshal, law clerk, probation officer, or deputy clerk. The student then spends the day with his or her mentor and to observe what a career in that field would entail.
- The District Court of New Jersey has an identical program but refers to it as “Shadow Me For a Day.” At the end of the Court’s program, there is a reception with a keynote speaker for the students. This information was provided by Judge Esther Salas.

High School Career Day

- Union City High School invited Judge Esther Salas to attend their career day. The day begins with an address from distinguished alums, followed by breakout sessions with individual alums presorted by profession. In breakout sessions, students interact in an intimate setting with a professional of their choosing.

Open Doors to Federal Courts

- The Western District of Pennsylvania modeled its Open Doors program on the national program of the same name. It consists of bringing high school students into the courthouse for a morning to participate in three separate panel discussions. Students would rotate between panels of judges (appellate, district, magistrate and bankruptcy) and court personnel, federal law enforcement

officers, and judicial law clerks, who would discuss their roles and various aspects of the law.

Brown Bag Lunch Series:

- The courthouses can host “brown bag” lunches for lawyers or students or both. These events offer educational seminars and networking opportunities.
 - Ex: At the suggestion of the Federal Bar of New Jersey, the District Court hosts “brown bag” lunches, aimed at lawyers, in each of the three courthouses. This past May, the program was in Trenton and the topic focused on settlement.
 - The District Court of the Virgin Islands also hosts similar lunch programs.
 - Also recommended by Judge Patty Shwartz.

Professionalism Day:

- Panels on ethics and professionalism are presented in DNJ courthouses for attorneys.
- Recommended by Judge Patty Shwartz.

Power of Women

- The District Court of the Virgin Islands implemented Power of Women (POW), with the goal of empowering young women to make responsible life choices. Female members of the community, including former offenders, court personnel, and other community professionals make presentations to female students. A judge also offers insight into the legal consequences that occur when young women make poor decisions. Chief Judge Wilma Lewis helped implement this program.

District Court Conferences

- District Courts can host annual conferences, inviting members of their District’s bar association to hear nationally known speakers and presentations on current topics of interest to the legal community. This has been implemented in the District Court of the Virgin Islands.

Professional Associations:

- Programs, supported by various state bar foundations (ex: New Jersey State Bar Foundation), providing materials such as:
 - Mock trial materials (see Mock Trials Below).
 - Materials focused on historical documents of the state and the United States (Articles of Confederation, US and State Constitutions).
 - Materials for adults, such as legal issues for seniors and consumer law.
 - Training materials for dealing with bullying.
 - Newsletters for elementary and middle school students that explain legal matters in plain language.
 - For more information, visit www.njsbf.org.
 - Recommended by Judge Patty Shwartz.

Summer Institute For Teachers:

- (http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/summer_institute_for_teachers.html)
 - Designed especially for teachers of U.S. history, government, civics, and law, the Federal Trials and Great Debates Summer Institute deepens participants' knowledge of the federal judiciary and of the role the federal courts have played in key public controversies that have defined our constitutional and other legal rights.
 - Participants work closely throughout the week-long Institute with leading historians, federal judges, and curriculum consultants, focusing on three landmark federal trials through curriculum developed by the Federal Judicial Center.
 - Ex: Cases to be studied this summer include: *Pentagon Papers*, *Olmstead v. United States*, and *Sedition Act Trials*.

Scholarship Competition:

- Ex: EDPA's "Union League" Program hosts 275+ students from diverse backgrounds and communities in the Delaware Valley region. Sponsored by the Union League of Philadelphia, the students compete for scholarships through the League's Youth Work Foundation by performing various types of community service. The students spend half of their day with the federal court on this day-long program.

Hosting Foreign Judiciary:

- Courts host judges and lawyers from countries all over the world and provide them with a day or half-day (depending on their scheduling needs) of court observations, discussions with judges, and luncheons with lectures. Some visits might be annual while others are scheduled on an ad hoc basis.

Student Meet-and-Greet:

- The PA Trial Association of Women Judges helps sponsor local programs for high school students. These events bring together law school professors, law students, and high school students, providing the younger students with an opportunity to network and receive advice from others.

Community Outreach:

- Ex: In DE, the bankruptcy court, through the Inns of Court and the NCBJ's CARE program, does outreach to community groups and schools on financial education. (<http://www.ncbj.org/?page=NCBJPOPP>)
 - For the CARE program, follow this link:
(<http://www.ncbj.org/?page=OutreachFinLiteracy>)
- In DE, the bankruptcy court also has a mock trial for kids on "Take Your Child to Work Day" (see "Mock Trial" below).

- Contact Info: Michael McKeever, Esquire; T: 215-825-6303; Email: mmckeever@kmlawgroup.com. He does community outreach with elementary schools in the immediate area.

V. Mock Trial

- Kids to Court - CourtWorks Program: This program introduces eighth graders to the federal court system through mock trial
 - To see a sample schedule for a program, visit: http://community.ce9.uscourts.gov/images/stories/general/courtworks/courtworks_materials.pdf
- Hold a Mock Trial on “take your kids to work day”.
- Street Law
 - http://www.streetlaw.org/en/resource_library
 - If you narrow the search under “Type” (located in the left toolbar) by selecting “Mock Trial,” there will be 18 examples, which come with a case summary, relevant court rules, and documents such as witness statements and memos to help build a mock case.
- The Western District of Pennsylvania held a mock trial for middle school students based upon the sinking of the Titanic. A federal judge presided over the proceedings, with the students serving as the jury. The trial was followed by a question and answer session.
- The Middle District of Pennsylvania also hosts mock trials that include preliminary rounds, district semi-final, final, and regional championships. Non-lawyers often attend and many judges preside over the mock trials. This information was provided by Judge Malachy Mannion.
- The District Court of New Jersey assigns mentors (either a law clerk or judge) who assist students with their mock trial preparations and stay in touch with them throughout their high school career.
- Michael McKeever (contact information above under “community outreach”) indicates that he has all sorts of programs/costumes for students to use at mock trials
- Also recommended by Judge Cynthia Rufe.

VI. Honor Role

- The ABA “Civics and Law Honor Role” (http://www.americanbar.org/groups/civics/civics_and_law_honorroll.html)
 - The Civics & Law Honor Roll recognizes secondary school students from throughout the United States who have demonstrated a commitment to civic learning and engagement. Created by the ABA Commission on Civic Education in the Nation’s Schools, its purpose is to create enthusiasm for

and reward academic and community volunteer achievements and engagement in civic education. Students selected for the Honor Roll receive signed certificates of achievement.

VII. Adult Education

Teacher Institutes

- These programs can provide intensive training on the subject of civics and the judiciary to teachers who can share that knowledge in their classrooms
 - See an example at: <http://community.ce9.uscourts.gov/community-outreach/general-information/teacher-academy>)

Community Outreach:

- The EDPA and The Community College of Philadelphia are seeking to develop a program in conjunction with observance of Citizenship/Constitution Day to increase awareness and civic education among adults.
 - Reported by Judge Cynthia M. Rufe.
- Judges and Lawyers volunteer to speak at various community and law school events.
 - Ex: Many EDPA judges are adjunct professors in law schools, and they also go to various schools and give guest lectures. Further, many judges welcome interns from law schools throughout the year and over the course of the summer. The EDPA also supports the JIOP Summer Intern Program sponsored by the ABA

VIII. Partnerships

- Developing partnerships and solid working relationships with the AO, ABA Public Education Division, the State Bar Association Legal Education Division, and local bar associations to either develop or to produce programs in civics education will be a useful and helpful way to make them successful.
- Include law school professors and/or deans on advisory committees.