



CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

TEACHING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

A Newsletter for Sponsors, Participants, and Friends of Classroom Law Project

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If This Is September 17, I Must Teach the Constitution

Yep, you heard it here. A new federal law requires teaching about the U.S. Constitution on, you guessed it, Constitution Day. Never mind that Constitution Day, commemorating

the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, falls on a Saturday, it's the law. The feds don't mind if you teach it in the week before or after so long as you do. Whew, what a relief.

It seems Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.), worried about the lack of civic knowledge among the populace so he got a law passed. Buried in an appropriations bill last year, there is a law that applies to both students and federal employees. It requires schools that receive federal funds to show students a lesson on the Constitution. Additionally, all federal employees (1.8 million give or take a few) in the executive branch are directed



to receive "education and training" materials.

Imagine that. Children and their parents being schooled on the same thing on the same day. Dinner table talk could be: "Hey, Mom, did you know that the very first amendment guarantees me freedom of speech?" "Not in this house, son. The first amendment applies to state action, not private like in here. I learned that today, too. Nice try, though."

Thankfully the law does not indicate specific content for the lesson. So Classroom Law Project has stepped in to get you started. Take a look at the Visitor from Outer Space lesson included in this newsletter (pg. 6). Great with all age groups, it takes place when the U.S. is overtaken by space aliens and asks learners to ponder which rights are most important. Don't have anything to talk about at the dinner table? Give it a try.

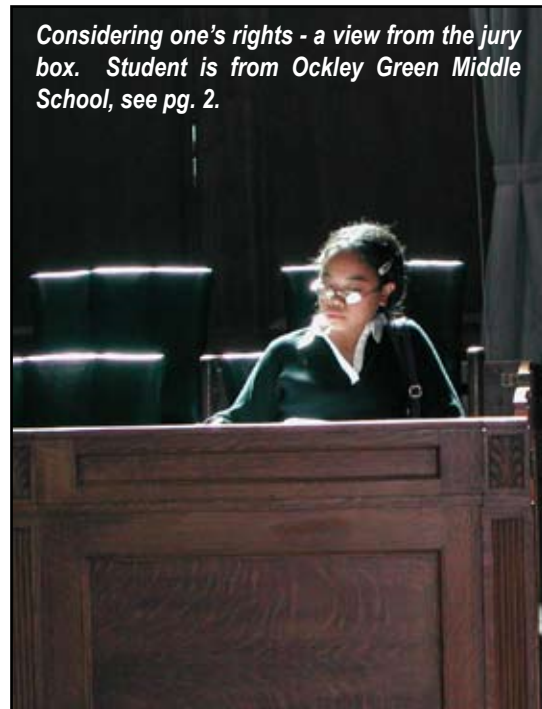
Be a First Amendment School

Celebrate the five freedoms our framers put first in the Constitution: freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition. Schools involved in this innovative and exciting program put those ideas into practice in their classrooms and schools.

If this sounds intriguing, consider becoming a First Amendment Project School or Affiliate school. Project Schools receive not only grants, but also professional development opportunities, resources, and site visits from the experts at First Amendment Schools. Affiliate schools do not receive automatic grants but they do receive resources, professional development opportunities, and the option to apply for small supplementary funding for First Amendment related best practices.

A good source for short information on First Amendment Schools can be found at <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/about/aboutindex.aspx>.

Considering one's rights - a view from the jury box. Student is from Ockley Green Middle School, see pg. 2.



Statewide Inservice Day is Friday, October 14

Eugene (location tbd) - Workshop

Teachers get a free classroom set of books. Workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is a \$25 registration fee. These workshops are being planned for **Central Oregon** and **Eastern Oregon** but details were not available at press time. Check the website for most current information: www.classroomlaw.org.

We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution

This is an interactive, hands-on workshop for upper elementary, middle and high school teachers. It will explore this nationally acclaimed program that focuses on the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The curriculum employs critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques in order to develop participatory skills necessary for students to become active, engaged citizens. Importantly, it correlates with many Oregon reading, writing, and speaking standards, as well as, social science analysis.

We the People: Project Citizen

Teachers, grades 5-8, will explore how to use this curriculum that emphasizes local government while engaged in a service-learning-type activity. Students dive into a local public policy issue and work cooperatively toward a solution. It culminates in the presentation of a portfolio that explains the issue, solutions, and action plan. Importantly, it offers superb opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching, plus a host of Oregon standards and benchmarks including reading, writing, speaking, and social science analysis.

To register, send email to office@classroomlaw.org and include your name, school, address, telephone number and check number. Then mail your check to: Classroom Law Project / Inservice Day, 620 SW Main St., #102, Portland, OR 97205.

Salem - Oregon Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference

Secretary of State Bill Bradbury will welcome and open the conference while the Preserve America Oregon History Teacher of the Year, Kristie Duyckinck of Century High School in Hillsboro, will be the keynote speaker. The theme of the conference is Undaunted Teaching in the Social Studies. In addition to several hour-long introductory workshops offered by Classroom Law Project, the conference typically hosts workshops by the Oregon Geographic Alliance, Oregon Historical Society, and many others. Also there will be an exhibitor fair.

For more information, contact OCSS via conference chair, Shirley Lomax at ladyatfals@aol.com or 405 Fir Knoll Lane NE, Salem, Oregon 97301. Also please watch the OCSS website for more information, www.oregonsocialstudies.org.

IMAGINE: 20 Students from Ockley Green Middle School went to law school this summer . . .

For one week in June, Ockley Green Middle School students attended Law Camp, where they learned all about the justice system and got to put on their own mock trial at the end of the week. They appeared before Honorable Keith Meisenheimer in the Multnomah County Courthouse and put on the trial of *Parker v. Paradise County School District*.



Youth Summit is Coming SOON!

It is the first week of school and you are swamped. But before you know it, it will be October and you will be looking for that special something for your class. That is why you should take a moment now, put these dates in your calendar, and send your registration TODAY. You will not want to miss Classroom Law Project's annual youth summit for middle and high school students.

This year's youth summit is focused on citizen's role in selecting U.S. Supreme Court justices. Lessons will include background information on the Supreme Court, how cases affect kids' lives, how the nomination and confirmation process works, and how citizens have a say. On summit day at Portland State University, students will hear from many current judges in Oregon's courts.

Here are the dates you must carve out to participate:

Tuesday, Sept. 13 - registration due

Wednesday, Sept. 21 - first teacher professional development session, 4:30-8:00, at the OEA in Tigard. Teachers hear from an attorney who argued a landmark decision before the U.S. Supreme Court and review a packet of 10 lessons to use in their classrooms.

****Registration due
TUESDAY, SEPT. 13****

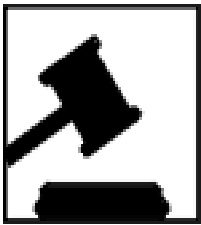
Thursday, October 27 - youth summit at Portland State University - each teacher may bring approximately 5 students selected to represent the class. Approximately 150 middle and high school students and their teachers from across Oregon comprise the summit.

Thursday Nov. 3 - required - second teacher professional development session 4:30-8:00, at the OEA in Tigard. Here teachers debrief the summit, reflect on student learning, and plan for the future.

We know cost is an issue so we are pleased to report the Youth Summit is being provided free of charge. Classroom Law Project has many supporters in this program including the Youth for Justice Program of the United States Department of Justice, Oregon Education Association, Portland State University, and others.

This popular program often has a waiting list. REGISTER TODAY, don't postpone. Participants are selected on a first-come, first served basis with preference given to teachers from member districts, teachers attending as a team, and equitable balance of middle and high school students. Questions? Contact CLP at 503-224-4424 or office@classroomlaw.org.

Sign Up Now for the Popular Court Tour Program



If you are a teacher of students 5th grade through high school, this is the field trip for you. But sign up now because all spaces are typically filled by the end of **September**.

The tours are unpredictable, interesting, educational, and the real deal. They begin with an orientation at

the old federal courthouse, then go to arraignments at the Justice Center, and then finally on to trials in the Multnomah County Courthouse. Tours are led by experienced tour guides, often former teachers or lawyers. Students observe defendants at various stages of the criminal process, from arraignment through sentencing, as well as civil matters. They will see attorneys question, witnesses testify and judges clarify in both criminal and civil cases.

It is a field trip organized by Classroom Law Project and the Multnomah County court administrator's office. You may register by using the form below (telephone reservations not accepted). A separate form must be mailed for each visit. There is a limit of 50 students per tour group. Teachers must assure that there will be at least one adult for every eight students. You may use the form from the flyer sent to your school or the one below:

2005-2006 COURTHOUSE EXPERIENCE RESERVATION FORM

Name _____ School _____ District _____

Work _____ Fax _____ Home _____

Address _____

_____ Email _____

Date Preferences 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

Time: 9 a.m. - 12 noon Grade(s) _____ No. of Students _____

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

Yes No Send materials on the justice system to prepare students for the court tour.

IMPORTANT: Adult chaperones required; all groups must bring at least one adult per 8 students.

LIMIT: 50 Students per tour group.

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: Multnomah Court Administrator,
Multnomah County Courthouse, 1021 SW Fourth Ave., Room 236, Portland, OR 97204

Note: Please use a separate form for each reservation.

We the People News

To compete or not to compete. Is that your question?

If you are a high school teacher and use the acclaimed *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* curriculum by the Center for Civic Education, then perhaps competition has crossed your mind.

We the People is the event where students testify in simulated hearings about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The competition has both canned and extemporaneous speaking parts for students with adults performing the role of judges. The adults are the legislators in the hearing and the students testify. The class with highest score after answering the judges' questions wins.

Perhaps you would like your students to get their toes wet but not take the plunge. Then consider doing an exhibition round at the district-level competition. Choose one or two units where your students excel and let them participate to get a feel for what it is all about. It is heady stuff watching students taking ownership of the Constitution.

Whether competing officially or as an

exhibition team, teachers must contact their district coordinators regarding their plans. District events will occur on January 10, 11, or 12. Your coordinator needs to know by mid-November if you intend to participate. There is NO registration fee. Don't know who your coordinator is? See the sidebar.

The class scoring the most points in each congressional district advances to the state competition. The State Finals will be at the state capitol in Salem on Friday, January 20. Judging panels at the state competition include Supreme Court justices, professors, and other civic leaders.

The State-level questions are used for both the District and State competitions. They become available online in early October at www.civiced.org. The questions that come with the classroom set of books are great for practice but they will NOT be used in competition.

So, whether for competition or for the experience, *We the People* is an excellent way to help students understand government, US history, politics, and the



Chehalem Valley Middle School students present to a panel of judges at We the People Day in Salem. Judging the students were (L-R) Tommy Jamison from the Grant High School WTP team, Oregon Supreme Court Justice Robert Durham and retired teacher Gayle Faust, and Oregon Senator Charles Starr observing.

role they play in it.

Coaches' Workshop

To help coaches -- teacher-coaches, attorney-coaches, professor-coaches, toe-in-the-water-coaches -- this workshop has something for everyone. We will sort through the new questions. We will hear advice from veterans, and fresh approaches from newbies. This

workshop is invaluable for veterans and rookies alike. And it is free!

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 22, it is again at the beautiful campus of Lewis &

Clark Law School in Portland. Lunch is provided so we need a headcount. Be sure to let us know if you intend to come. You will not want to miss it. Contact CLP today to reserve your place.

Contact your District Coordinator

To learn more about the programs, workshops, simulated hearings (either competitive or non-competitive), how get free books, and the like contact your district coordinator (see sidebar). Arranged by congressional district, your coordinator is the one where your school is located. You may also contact Classroom Law Project, the coordinator for the State of Oregon, 503-224-4424 or office@classroomlaw.org.

NOT just a High School Program

Did you know free classroom sets of books are also available for 5th and 8th grade? Like the high school level, the curriculum for the earlier grades strongly encourages doing simulated congressional hearings. These do not

District Coordinators

Congressional District 1 (Rep. David Wu)
Susan Marcus, Teacher-retired
6255 SW Hamilton Way
Portland, OR 97221
ph: 503-292-9452
swmarcus@aol.com

Congressional District 2 (Rep. Greg Walden)
Brian Johnson, Teacher
Pendleton High School
1800 NW Carden Ave.
Pendleton, OR 97801-2899
Ph: 541-276-3621 fax: 541-966-9268
brian_johnson@pendleton.k12.or.us

Congressional District 3 (Rep. Earl Blumenauer)
Cheryl Johnson, Principal - retired
6610 Canterbury Dr.
Gladstone, OR 97027
h: 503-659-1382
crjohnson99@juno.com

Congressional District 4
(Rep. Peter DeFazio)
Gayle Faust, Teacher - retired
2910 Tulip Street
Eugene, Oregon 97408
h: 541-687-3234
cell: 541-914-1217

Congressional District 5
(Rep. Darlene Hooley)
Co-Cordinators:
Chuck Chamberlain, Teacher
South Salem High School
1910 Church Street SE
Salem, OR 97302-3099
ph: 503-399-3252 fax: 503-375-7805
charles@viser.net or
chamberlain_chuck@salkeiz.k12.or.us

Diane Thelen-Sager, Teacher - retired
10 SW. Boundary Street
Portland, Oregon 97219
h: 503-293-1895
cell: 971-998-3325
dianesager@gmail.com

have to be competitive. They can be informally done at the end of a unit, or done in a more formal fashion in front of other classes, parents, and community leaders. Contact CLP or your district coordinator for more information.

Mock Trial News

Was It a Drag Race?

When Vanessa accelerated her car and plowed into a pole, some who were there said it was a drag race. D. Kendall, teenage driver of the car next to her, claimed to have a malfunctioning accelerator. Join a mock trial team and argue the case of *State v. Kendall*. Registration information will be sent to schools in mid-October or check online at www.classroomlaw.org.

Classroom Law Project's 20th Annual High School Mock Trial Competition gears up this fall. Regional competitions will be held on or about March 4 (subject to approval from the Regional Coordinator nearest you), and State Finals will be March 17-18, in Portland.

AGAIN THIS YEAR:

Calling All NEW Teams. FREE Registration!

Ten regional competitions will be held around the state. They happen in Eastern, Central, and Southern Oregon, as well as the Valley and Portland.

Many regions need more schools in order to keep things interesting. Classroom Law Project will waive the \$150 registration fee for schools entering for the first time or after a 4 or more year hiatus.

Lack of help holding you back? Let CLP know; we will contact local attorneys to try to get the support you need.

BACK THIS YEAR - Baker City Regional Competition!

We are pleased to announce that there will be a competition in Baker City - that is, IF enough teams sign up. Thanks go to Baker Circuit Court Judge Greg Baxter who has agreed to be the regional coordinator. We need six teams in the Baker area as well as six more in Pendleton to guarantee

competitions in both regions. If there are only enough teams for one regional competition in Eastern Oregon, it will be in Pendleton. Registration forms will be available in mid-October. Sign up right away so teams will know where they will compete!

Great for Middle School, Too!

Many local middle schoolers enjoy using the high school case for their first mock trial experience. Teachers use the same rules but simplify them. It is a particularly effective end-of-school activity, especially when the nearby high school mock trial team members come to help. Think about it!

Important Dates

Mid-October	Registration forms available
Nov. 13	Mock Trial Coaches' Workshop - Portland
Dec. 9	Optional Portland Area Mini-Mock (unconfirmed)
Dec. 16	Team registration deadline, late fees begin
Jan. 6	Last day registrations accepted
Jan. 13	Listserve begins; no refunds after this day
Mar. 3	Grants Pass regional competition
Mar. 4*	All other regional competitions*
Mar. 17-18	State Finals competition - Portland
*subject to Regional Coordinator's approval	

Perfect Day on the Links

ALOHA, OR - Bright blue sky dotted with an occasional puffy white cloud. 80-something degrees. Perfectly groomed course. Good friends, good food, and --save for a few nasty drives into the drink, rough, or sand-- good times. It was Classroom Law Project's 4th annual charity golf tournament, the Senators' Cup.

Held at The Reserve Vineyard and Golf Club on Aug. 2, it was dubbed the Senators' Cup because it has the support of both Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Gordon Smith. Eager golfers lined up to play at this sold-out event. While it may be true that Senator Wyden may prefer the basketball court, we learned at The Reserve that Senator Smith likes the greens.

One of the holes offered a new car, courtesy of Doherty Ford, to the player who could sink a hole-in-one. Senator Smith came close but his state director, Kerry Tymchuk, had the closest drive of the day. But, alas, the car was safe. When one in his foursome looked at the bright side and remarked about all the money saved by not having to pay "all those taxes" on the winning car, Senator Smith quipped, "yes, but I am lowering those."

One hundred fifty players were there to support Classroom Law Project and enjoy that amazing course. Tournament cup



(L-R) Doug Goe, Senator Gordon Smith, Jim Carter and Kerry Tymchuk suspend their play for a moment to pose for a team photo.

winner included two educators Dennis Steinbock, teacher from Klamath Falls, and Ron Hitchcock, from the Multnomah ESD, with their impressive best low gross finish of 62. Perhaps Dennis and Ron will have a putt-off to determine in whose office the roving cup will be displayed during the year.

This popular tournament was the result of the efforts of many dedicated

individuals and organizations. Board members Brian Doherty and Doug Goe chaired the golf committee. Portland Teachers' Credit Union and Nike were two key sponsors. Many law firms and businesses, organizations and individuals sponsored holes, players, gifts, auction items, time, money, and more. Classroom Law Project is grateful for the generosity of all its friends. 5

Lesson: A Visitor from Outer Space¹



Introduction

This highly motivating activity requires students to think about the relative importance of the guarantees of the Bill of Rights by having them select five that they would surrender to a “visitor from outer space.” It can be used as an introduction or concluding activity to the study of the Bill of Rights. Note that STHGIR and NOITUTITSNOC are rights and constitution spelled backwards.

Objectives

1. To stimulate examination of values about the guarantees of the Bill of Rights.
2. To develop understanding of the interrelationships among individuals rights.

Level: Grade 5 and above

Time: One class period

Materials: Copies of Handout for all students

Procedure

1. Distribute Handout. Read through instructions and ask students to make their selections. Students can work individually or in groups of three.
2. List the ten rights on the board and poll the class on their ranking of each freedom. Ask students to give the reasoning behind their choices.

¹ Donald P. Vetter and Linda Ford, *Responsibilities and Rights in Schools*, 1978, Carroll County Public Schools, Westminster, Maryland 211157.

— — — — —

You are living a happy life in New Mexico. You are quietly watching television with your family when a special news bulletin comes over the TV station. You immediately see that this is not the normal type of news bulletin because there is what looks like a very strange creature on the screen -- the only thing familiar is that he is speaking English. He tells you that he and his people have gained control over all of the communications networks in the United States and that everyone had better pay attention to what he has to say. You change the channel and, just as he said, there he is on every station. He begins to speak very loudly. You gather your family around you because you are beginning to worry about what he is going to do. His speech is as follows:

My name is STHGIR. I am from the planet NOITUTITSNOC in another galaxy where the inhabitants are far superior to the beings on the planet EARTH. Just as we have gained control over the communications of the United States, we have the ability to take complete control over every one of your lives. We do not want a war between our planet and yours, but we do want to control some things so that we can live in peace and harmony with you. We have looked at some of your laws and the way your government operates and have found that they give too much freedom to the individual. Therefore, we are going to conduct a survey and try to arrive at a decision about which both you and I will be happy. As I have said, I do not want to take everything away from you. But I cannot allow you to continue to live as you have in the past. Therefore, I am giving you a list of ten of the rights that you now have according to your Constitution. You are to look over the list and decide which of the ten are most important to you. I will allow you to keep FIVE of the ten rights, the five that get the most votes from all the citizens for the United States. You are to rank the following rights in the order in which you would give them up, with 1 being the one you would give up last and 10 being the one you would give up first. After you have completed your ranking, you will receive further instructions.

- _____ Right to bear arms
- _____ Right of freedom of speech
- _____ Right to legal counsel
- _____ Right to protection from cruel and unusual punishment
- _____ Right to freedom of press
- _____ Right to a jury trial
- _____ Right to freedom of religion
- _____ Right to peacefully assemble
- _____ Right to protection from self-incrimination
- _____ Right to protection from unreasonable searches and seizures

Understanding Iraq

Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds. Iraqis and Arabs. Confused about what one group's relationship is to the other? Wonder which is the majority? To get a handle on it, see *Is Iraq on the Way to Democracy?* in Bill of Rights in Action, Spring 2005. Published by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, this current events piece goes a very long way in explaining what forces are at play in Iraq. Written in a very clear, no-nonsense fashion, it describes Iraq's three key groups of people, their historical relationship, and what is going on today. Recommended reading for students and adults alike. For more information on the Constitutional Rights Foundation see www.crf-usa.org.

Classroom Law Project's Top 5 Constitution Day Resources

Here is our Top Five list of cool resources for lessons on the U.S. Constitution. Check them out!

5. From First Amendment Schools, find a list of 31 fabulous lessons that highlight the five freedoms of the first amendment. <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/resources/lessonplans>.

4. A shameless plug: CLP's lessons on selecting a U.S. Supreme Court justice from our 2005 Youth Summit - U.S. Supreme Court, Citizen's Role in Selecting a Justice. Posted in late September on www.classroomlaw.org.

3. From the excellent work of the folks at PBS, this lesson explores the philosophical



basis of the Constitution. http://www.pbs.org/georgewashington/classroom/constitution_day.html.

2. Constitutional Rights Foundation's first-rate materials geared for Constitution Day may be found at: http://www.crf-usa.org/constitution_day/constitution_day_home.html.

1. Dependable Center for Civic Education lessons for Constitution Day are found at <http://www.civiced.org>.

BONUS. And one more! Don't forget Aliens From Outer Space found on page 6!

Classroom Law Project Needs Your Help!

Classroom Law Project is a non-profit organization. To keep our programs running, we depend on donors and volunteers.

You may know Classroom Law Project by this newsletter, or perhaps by the Mock Trial competition, or We the People: Constitution program, or Youth Summit, or Law Day, or, or, or -- the list is long. Whatever your interest, know your donation is tax-deductible and your dollars go directly to programs.

As an organization that fuels education on the law,

government, and society, CLP is pleased to be recognized by the Oregon Cultural Trust as one of its qualifying non-profit organizations. The Cultural Trust works by donors contributing to both the Trust itself, thus funding Oregon's cultural activities, and making a direct donation to a qualified non-profit organization like Classroom Law Project. Find more information on Oregon's Cultural Trust at www.culturaltrust.org.

Won't you help? Please support Classroom Law Project consider donating today. Thanks.

Yes, I want to help students become active citizens by making a contribution!

Ms./Mr./Mrs. _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Amount \$ _____ Check payable to Classroom Law Project

_____ VISA / MasterCard _____

Credit Card Number

Exp. Date

_____ Matching Employer Amount? _____ Stock transfer (contact CLP)

Mail to: Classroom Law Project, 620 SW Main St., #102, Portland, OR 97205

Classroom Law Project's

2005-06 Calendar

Teacher consultations, lending library, and other workshops are ongoing throughout the year

September 2005

- 21 Youth Summit Professional Development Seminar for Teachers - Tigard
- 22 Court Tour Guides' Orientation and Lunch - Portland

October

- 4 Court Tours begin today
- 14 Statewide Inservice Day:
We the People and *Project Citizen* workshops - Central and Eastern Oregon (tentative), Eugene
OCSS Annual Conference - Salem
- 22 *We the People* Coaches' Workshop - Portland
- 27 Youth Summit - Portland State University

November

- 3 Youth Summit Professional Development Seminar for Teachers - Tigard
- 13 Mock Trial Coaches' Workshop - Portland

December

- 9 Mini-Mock Trial event (tentative) - Portland

January 2006

- 10, 11, or 12 District *We the People* competitions - Pendleton, Eugene, Portland
- 20 State *We the People* competition - Salem

March 2006

- 4 High School Mock Trial Regional Competitions - 10 locations statewide
- 11-12 High School Mock Trial State Competition - Portland

April

- mid Legal Citizen Dinner - Portland

May

- 3 Law Day Conference for High Schoolers - Portland State University
- 19 *We the People* Day for 5th-8th Graders at the Capitol, *Project Citizen* Showcase and Constitution Hearings - Salem

June

- 22-23 Civic Mission of Schools Conference for Educators (tentative) - Portland

July

- 10-14 Summer Institute for Educators - Portland

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620 SW MAIN STREET, SUITE 102
PORTLAND, OR 97205

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