



# CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

TEACHING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

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

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## ***Finding Democracy in Croatia: Tom, Diane and Marilyn's excellent adventure***

Last October, Marilyn Cover and friends set off for Croatia. The occasion was Croatia's annual Project Citizen Student Showcase, and they were part of an American delegation there to witness it. While in Croatia, they also saw old friends and made new ones as they visited courtrooms, schools, an embassy and even a national park. "It was amazing," Cover said, "there I was walking along the streets of Zagreb when I heard my name called out" and she connected again with colleagues from across the globe.

Cover led the American delegation. From Oregon, she brought the Honorable Tom Balmer from Oregon's Supreme Court, and Diane Thelen-Sager. Thelen-Sager is the Classroom Law Project district coordinator for both Project Citizen and We the People programs. Delegates also included officials from Maryland, Delaware, and leaders from the Center for Civic Education in California.

Project Citizen was the centerpiece of the trip. The delegation witnessed Croatia's National Showcase where students – preschool through high school – displayed their work on civic participation. Thirty-



Croatian students present their Project Citizen work during the Croatia Project Citizen National Showcase in Oct. 2006.

seven presentations advanced to Croatia's National Showcase, and topics were local to international in scope. For example, one of the preschoolers' projects proposed building a much needed playground. High school students in another town exposed the problem of architectural barriers to the disabled when accessing public buildings. To get their point across, they convinced the town's mayor to confine himself to a wheelchair and attempt to gain entrance to his town's library. And other school talked about the problem of human trafficking.

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## ***Coming Soon: Democracy Camp II***

Plans for Democracy Camp II are underway for next summer, July 1-6, 2007, in Lovran, Croatia. Five high school mock trial teams will be selected to bring a coach and two students to the Democracy Camp with high school students and teachers from Croatia. Stay tuned for more details.

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To assure that this important work continues, Cover also attended a Project Citizen workshop for teachers. Twenty teachers from around Croatia attended a two-day training in Opatia on Croatia's stunning Adriatic shore. Impressive veteran teachers led groups through discussions on public policy, developing a portfolio, and presentation techniques.

Back in Zagreb, delegates Justice Balmer and Judge Ben Clyburn, from Maryland, had the opportunity to observe Croatian justice in action. They saw a corruption trial in Judge Marin Mrcela's courtroom. Mrcela, himself a Croatian delegate participating in past American exchanges, oversaw the renovation of one of Zagreb's courtrooms. After visiting Portland's Hatfield Federal Courthouse, Mrcela was so taken by what he observed that he saw to it that the elevated judge's bench, a novel concept in Croatia, and warm wood paneling were integrated into Zagreb's new courtroom.

During their travels delegates were also honored to meet with Ambassador Brandke, the new U.S. ambassador to Croatia. Ambassador Brandke was genuinely interested in and supportive of efforts being made to further democracy education. One such example is the introduction of mock trials as a teaching strategy to learn about justice. Cover and others were able to re-connect with teachers attending last summer's Democracy Camp in which Oregon and Croatian students and teachers used mock trials to explore fundamentals of democracy.

Oregon delegates Cover, Balmer, and Thelen-Sager took an afternoon to trek through Croatia's spectacular Plitvice Lakes National Park (NPR and OPB fans note that this is a Rick Steves fave destination). Although it was occupied by Serb forces during the war and left with land mines, Balmer noted that they had a wonderful day "strolling by many ponds loaded with trout, observing beautiful waterfalls and appreciating the natural beauty of Croatia."



Thelen-Sager summed up what she saw. "It occurred to me," she said, that the kind of education advanced through the Civitas program "is a more effective way to spread democracy and citizen empowerment than military action." For more information on the Civitas International Program, contact Classroom Law Project, 503-224-4424.



(Clockwise) Top: Teachers at a two-day Project Citizen training in Opatia, Croatia. Above: Judge Ben Clyburn from Maryland (left) and Justice Tom Balmer (right) visit the courtroom of Croatian Judge Marin Mrcela (center). Left: Diane Thelen-Sager, Marilyn Cover and Justice Tom Balmer at Plitvice Lakes National Park in Croatia.

## We the People News



**ACK!**

This newsletter had to go to print long before schools competed in their district competitions, and before the state finals were held at Portland's Hatfield Federal Courthouse. But by now we know who will represent Oregon at the National Finals in Washington, D.C. Check CLP's website, [www.classroomlaw.org](http://www.classroomlaw.org), to get the results.



SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

## Joan P. Snyder, CLP Board Member

Classroom Law Project is honored to have this woman of many talents on its Board of Directors. As a lawyer practicing environmental law with the Stoel Rives firm, she often relies on the knowledge she gained as an industrial chemist. Her litigation and negotiation skills shine when she coaches her daughters' mock trial team at Oregon Episcopal School. And at CLP's boardroom table, Joan can be depended upon to make key points and bull's eye suggestions.



When she is not busy litigating, negotiating, coaching, or advising, Joan is at home with her husband Phil VanderWeele, and daughters Katie and Jenni.

## Oregon Community Foundation Renews Grant

The Oregon Community Foundation recently awarded Classroom Law Project an additional grant to continue its Civic Mission of Schools campaign. Generous funding from OCF has fueled efforts to support and enhance civic education in ten high schools across the state of Oregon, and has also supported various conferences and research to help promote this mission. The recent funding renewal will enable these efforts to continue.

The ten schools participating in the civics enhancement "migrants" include Corvallis, Franklin, Glencoe, Molalla, Parkrose, Reynolds, Sisters, Tualatin, West Albany and Westview high schools. Each of these sites has

worked with CLP to develop unique plans based on best practices to foster engaged student citizens.

Molalla High School recently developed an "Applied Civics" course and will implement the community problem-solving curriculum *Project Citizen* this spring. Sisters High School is in the process of rewriting its school constitution and bolstering its mock trial and *We the People* teams. In West Albany, teachers are reformatting a leadership class for their special education population, and using *Foundations of Democracy* and *Project Citizen* as anchor texts and projects for this endeavor. Other schools have elected to purchase new

textbooks, compensate teachers for planning, after-school instruction time, and new civics-based curricula development.

Grant schools have participated in a series of conferences to access professional development and participate in a forum to exchange ideas. In addition to a summer conference this past June, teams from the schools met in early January to compare teaching ideas and plans, hear from former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Sue Leeson, and continue an ongoing dialogue about the future of civic education in Oregon. CLP looks forward to offering our continued support to these sites that are encouraging the development of informed citizens.



# Mock Trial News

It is a real case. And it happened in Portland, Oregon.

The 2006-07 Oregon High School Mock Trial case is a difficult one – legally, politically and emotionally – because it demands that students confront the highly controversial and potentially divisive issues of hate, hate crimes and violence. Freedom of speech goes head to head with the search for appropriate remedies after bad acts occur, very bad acts.

It is based on the 1990 case of *Berhanu vs. Metzger, et al.* in Portland, brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center, of Montgomery, Alabama, under the leadership of Chief Trial Counsel Morris Dees and Portland attorney Elden Rosenthal. They won a nearly \$5.5 million judgment against Tom Metzger's White Aryan Resistance (WAR) for the unprovoked racist attack against Ethiopian immigrant student Mulugeta Seraw by Skinheads WAR was recruiting. The judgment bankrupted WAR, but the organization still exists and continues to promote its racist agenda.

Mock trial has long been one of the most effective strategies of law-related education. LRE has always been intended to provide a way for teachers to deal with society's most controversial issues in a classroom setting, and this year's case is no exception. It requires students to take and defend extremely difficult positions and to roleplay unsavory and distasteful characters.

Classroom Law Project firmly believes that despite its difficulty, the subject matter of this year's case is one that should not be avoided. It is CLP's belief that it is far better that young people are exposed to these problems in a structured format, working in small groups with the guidance of professional educators rather than develop their attitudes haphazardly, in isolation, or under the intense pressures of peer influence.

Regional competitions will occur across the state on Saturday, March 3, except Grants Pass on March 2. The state finals will be held in Portland's Hatfield Federal Courthouse March 16-17. The competition is open to the public. For more information, contact CLP at [office@classroomlaw.org](mailto:office@classroomlaw.org).

## **Legal Citizen of the Year: The Honorable Ancer L. Haggerty**

He grew up in N.E. Portland, attended Woodlawn Grade School and Jefferson High School, went to the University of Oregon, and then to Hastings College of Law. Judge Ancer Haggerty is now the chief judge of the United States District Court, District of Oregon. One could say, this is a local kid who made good.

Please join Classroom Law Project at a dinner in honor of this very good man. Tuesday, April 24, at the Governor Hotel in Portland is the day and place.

This annual dinner honors an Oregonian who exemplifies the work of Classroom Law Project. Judge Haggerty, a long time supporter of CLP, participates in CLP's mock trial and *We the People* programs. Proceeds from the dinner support programs like these.

Please contact CLP for more information [office@classroomlaw.org](mailto:office@classroomlaw.org), or 503-224-4424.



**Chief Judge Ancer L. Haggerty of the United States District Court, District of Oregon.**

# MBA + CLP = SOS to area schools

Attorneys with the Multnomah Bar Association (MBA) wanted to make a gift – a gift that would keep on giving. They wished to help young people understand and appreciate the rule of law and democracy in which they live. Staff at Classroom Law Project provide teachers and students the tools to help them learn the same. And teachers from Portland and Parkrose school districts struggled to do it on their own. These three critical components – a gift, a provider, and eager recipients – made for a critical mass.

The strategy of CLP and MBA was to target two different high schools plus a feeder middle school for each, and from two different school districts in Multnomah County. Portland's Franklin and Hosford, and Parkrose's high school and middle school were just right. So, the Multnomah Bar Association awarded a grant to Classroom Law Project to expand and strengthen Oregon's acclaimed *We the People* program. Students in this program participate in mock congressional hearings where they discuss their

knowledge of the U.S. Constitution.

The MBA grant funded teacher participation in CLP's annual summer institute, supplemental materials for students, periodic teacher roundtable discussions, expenses related to the participating in the *We the People* competition, plus ongoing support at each school from CLP. Classroom Law Project with the assistance of the MBA linked twenty volunteer lawyers to work directly with students on a weekly basis. The attorneys, too, report learning a great deal. Jeremy Sarrant, a Portland lawyer and volunteer at Franklin High School, says, "this has taught me to appreciate the Constitution even more."

At Hosford and Parkrose middle schools, students are diving into this exciting material for the first time with teachers and attorneys working together to help them learn. Both middle schools will have a culminating showcase this spring. Students will testify before a panel of judges and community members and participate in CLP's annual *We the People* Day at the State Capitol in May. When these students advance

to high school, they will be poised to take part in the strong programs that are in place there.

At the high schools, students at Parkrose and Franklin worked with volunteer lawyers to prepare for the formal district and state high school *We the People* competition (these events occurred in January after press time). Teams from both schools met after school for intense practice sessions. Students were spotted scouring the *Federalist Papers* and the *New York Times* to supplement their presentations. Portia Hall, *We the People* teacher coach at Franklin reported, "this is the best year yet!"

Emily Kropf Shannon, Project Manager at Classroom Law Project, has worked closely with the teachers involved in this program. "These teachers are amazingly motivated and creative," said Shannon, "and the efforts of the volunteers from the Multnomah Bar Association are impressive." So, hat's off to teachers Richard English, Portia Hall, Kyle Evans, Rebecca Galvan, Kate Moore, and the many dedicated local attorneys and the MBA for making such an effort possible!



**Kate Moore's 8th grade class, from Parkrose Middle School, is one of the participating schools in the *We the People* expansion project.**

# ***APB for Teachers of Personal Finance, Econ, Leadership, etc.: Check Out the CARE Program***

Want students to know how credit works? Then some Oregon lawyers have a plan for you. And it's FREE.

The Credit Abuse Resistance Education or CARE Program, spearheaded by attorneys in Oregon State Bar's Debtor Creditor section, began a local chapter of this fast-growing national program. Its goal is to provide high school students with information about how credit cards work. Oregon lawyers will come to your classroom to explain the real deal.

Classroom presentations are generally given a bankruptcy judge and an attorney and last 45 minutes to an hour. Last year, sixteen schools from throughout the Willamette Valley took advantage of this great resource. Lawyers bring materials, show a 10-minute video, and answer students' questions. To check it out online, see the websites by the programs's founder, Judge John Ninfo, [www.careprogram.us](http://www.careprogram.us), and another by Judge Hargrove from the Southern District of California, [www.casb.uscourts.gov/html/care/index.htm](http://www.casb.uscourts.gov/html/care/index.htm).

If you are interested in participating in Oregon's CARE Program, contact Laura Walker in Portland at 503-224-3092, [lwalker@chbh.com](mailto:lwalker@chbh.com); or Becky Kamitsuka in Eugene, 541-343-8060, [Becky@gcbpc.com](mailto:Becky@gcbpc.com).



## ***Summer Professional Development Opportunities***

There are many wonderful professional development opportunities from many sources available to teachers this summer. We have plucked just three of them to highlight for you.

### **Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers**

June 14 – 19 and June 21 – 26

Washington, D.C.

Cosponsored by Street Law, Inc., and Supreme Court Historical Society

Participants will spend six stimulating days on Capitol Hill and inside the Supreme Court, studying cases from the current term, and learning about the certiorari process, nominations, interest groups, and the media. They will explore strategies for teaching about the Court, conduct a moot court, and hear from prominent Supreme Court litigators, reporters, and commentators. Participants will also visit the Court to hear decisions handed down and attend a reception.

Applications now available for 2007 Institutes -  
Deadline March 12, 2007:

[www.streetlaw.org/content.asp?ContentId=183](http://www.streetlaw.org/content.asp?ContentId=183).

To learn more, visit the Supreme Court Institutes and Seminars web page:

[www.streetlaw.org/content.asp?ContentId=182](http://www.streetlaw.org/content.asp?ContentId=182).

### **Project Citizen Western Regional Summer Institute**

July 7-13 Prescott, AZ

Sponsored by the Center for Civic Education

This award winning curriculum first looks a bit like service learning. But on closer examination, it reveals an interdisciplinary, cooperative learning, project based curriculum rich in rigor and yielding amazing outcomes for kids. For more information including applications, contact Kaci Patterson at the Center for Civic Education, [patterson@civiced.org](mailto:patterson@civiced.org).

### **Summer Institute for Educators – Focus on *We the People***

July 9 – 13 Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland

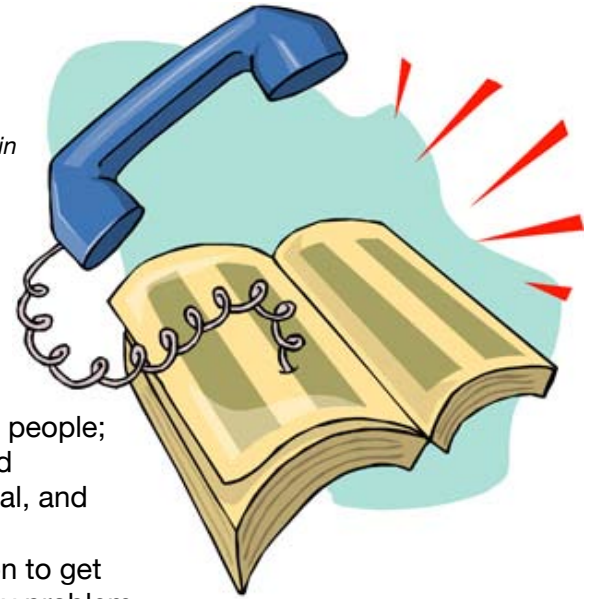
Sponsored by Classroom Law Project

For upper elementary, middle and high school teachers of civics, government, and related disciplines. This institute combines both content and strategies into a week of interactive, hands-on learning. Focusing on the acclaimed *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* curriculum by the Center for Civic Education, teachers will leave with books, lessons, and new skills in how to implement them. Contact [office@classroomlaw.org](mailto:office@classroomlaw.org) for more information.

## Lesson Plan – grades 5-12

# Telephone Book Scavenger Hunt

Credit to Barbara Miller, Center for Education in Law and Democracy, and teachers in Colorado's Project Citizen program



Teachers, use this scavenger hunt to:

- answer the post-election question, “now, what is it they do?”;
- explore which public official or office does what;
- expand students’ research skills;
- discover one’s community;
- stimulate discussion on ways in which government serves the people;
- examine federal, state, and local government jurisdictions; and
- reinforce the three branches of government – executive, judicial, and legislative.

For teachers using the Project Citizen curriculum, this is a great lesson to get students warmed up for the research they will do on their public policy problem.

Teachers are encouraged to modify the blanks students are to complete so that the lesson closely correlates with desired outcomes. This lesson offers a great deal of flexibility!

Materials needed:

phone book for each student, plus handout below.

Extensions:

Students make up their own scenarios.

Students discuss which branch of government controls and why. Consider checks and balances.

Handout:

### Telephone Book Scavenger Hunt

When you are looking for specific information, it is beneficial to know who can help you. After scenarios 1-12, below, fill in the blanks. The following are scenarios encountered by people every day. Your job is to use the Government section in your local telephone book and find out whom each person should contact. You will need to provide the branch of the government, department and possibly its’ subtitle, and phone number.

Complete the following for each of the scenarios:

Government (branch and jurisdiction) \_\_\_\_\_

Department and Subtitle (where appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Scenarios:

1. Jerry wants to join the Army.
2. Mary wants to find out the hours for the local recreation center.
3. Jose’s aunt is getting married and needs a marriage license.
4. Victoria wants to contact her United States Senators.
5. Abdul would like to find out when the city council will meet.
6. Sholanda lost her dog.
7. Levi is concerned about traffic safety in the neighborhood.
8. Joe’s parents would like to register to vote in their county.
9. Tony would like to find out if a bill in Oregon has been voted on.
10. Susie would like to ask the Governor a question.
11. Ari received a jury summons and has a question.
12. Zack’s family just moved in and they want to know what school district they are in.

# **Classroom Law Project**

## **2006-07 Calendar**

### **January 2007**

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- 4-5 Conference for College & University Professors – Troutdale
- 9-11 District We the People competitions – Pendleton, Eugene, Portland
- 12 Winter CMS Grant Meeting – Willamette Law School
- 19 State We the People competition – Portland
- 19 Training for new WTP teachers – Portland
- 31 Foundations of Democracy Training – PPS/Ball School
- 31 *We the People* workshop – Bend/LaPine

### **March 2007**

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- 2 Mock Trial Regional Competition – Grants Pass
- 3 Mock Trial Regional Competition – 8 Oregon Regions
- 16-17 Mock Trial State Finals Competition – Portland

### **April 2007**

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- 24 Legal Citizen Dinner – Portland
- 28-30 We the People National Finals – Washington, DC

### **May 2007**

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- 2 Law Day Conference for High Schoolers – PSU
- 16-17 *We the People* Day at the Capitol, for 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders – Salem
- 17-21 CIVITAS World Congress – Buenos Aires, Argentina

### **June 2007**

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- 23-26 *We the People* Coordinators' Annual Meeting – Washington, DC

### **July 2007**

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- 1-6 Democracy Camp II – Lovran, Croatia
- 9-13 Summer Institute for Educators – Lewis & Clark Law School
- 23 Annual CLP Golf Tournament – Portland

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