



CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

TEACHING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

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

Volume 21

Number 4

Summer 2007



Teachers, does your district provide professional development days? Can you take a personal day? In any case, this is a don't miss event you will want to plan for now. What better place to learn about Oregon government than the place where laws are made? Please join us at the state capitol on December 7!

Questions?
office@classroomlaw.org
(503) 224-4424

FROM CLASSROOM TO CITIZEN: CONFERENCE ON CIVICS IN OREGON

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WHO

Teachers, administrators, and other civic-minded individuals

WHERE

State Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon
Plenary sessions in Senate chambers
Breakout sessions in hearing rooms

WHEN

Friday, December 7, 2007
9 am – 4 pm

COST

\$50 per person, includes materials and lunch (*Half-price earlybird special: \$25 per person when completed registration and fee is received by October 5*)

SPEAKERS

Each branch of Oregon government will be represented

- ▶ Governor Ted Kulongoski or his designee
- ▶ Chief Justice Paul DeMuniz and other members of the appellate bench
- ▶ Legislators from both parties
- ▶ Educators showcasing successful programs

WHY

- ▶ Understand Oregon government from insiders' points of view.
- ▶ Learn teaching strategies from innovative educators.
- ▶ Connect content with state standards from the experts.
- ▶ Gather current information for use in your classroom now.

REGISTRATION

Mr/Mrs/Ms Name _____
 Grade and Course(s) _____
 School/Business _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip+4 _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

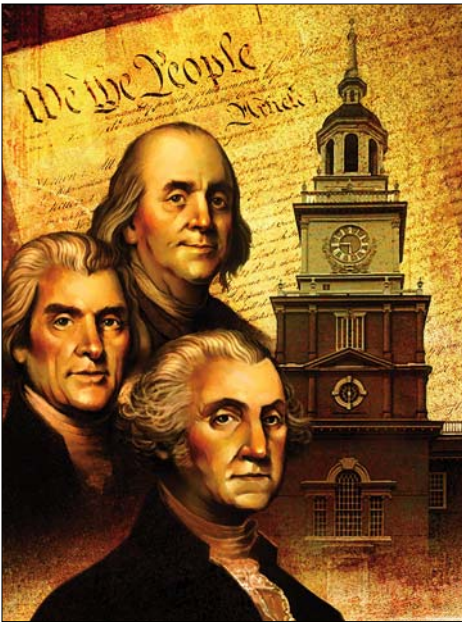
PAYMENT \$50 (*half price earlybird special: \$25 with completed registration and payment received by October 5*).

Credit Card Visa Master Card Check enclosed

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

SEND TO

Classroom Law Project, December Conference, 620 SW Main, Ste. 102, Portland, OR 97205



SEPTEMBER 17 IS CONSTITUTION DAY

There are materials galore to explore on Constitution Day. So, we could not pass up this opportunity to share an amazing new website being launched on, appropriately, **September 17**, the birthdate of the United States Constitution.

Celebrate with ConSource

Have you ever been curious to look at the original text of, say, Article I? But, given that it was penned with a quill 220 years ago, wouldn't it be nice to find it paired side-by-side with a current reprint? And as long as we are wishing, what about links directly to the pertinent parts of the Federalist Papers? Wish no longer. *ConSource* is here.

Also known as the *Constitutional Sources Project*, its mission is "to create and maintain the first complete, reliable, easy-to-use and fully searchable online database of original source materials for the United States Constitution so that scholars, educators, students, lawyers, judges and government personnel can have free remote access to them." This is the place to find primary source documents related to the Constitution. It is being rolled out in phases, but don't wait to check it out at www.consource.org and wish the Constitution a happy birthday!

Youth Summit

IMMIGRATION

Classroom Law Project's annual *youth summit* for middle and high schoolers is set for **November 7** at Portland State University. Spaces are limited to the first 30 teachers so register now to participate in this popular program.

After using the immigration materials with all students, teachers will select about five students to attend the Summit. Students will participate in hearings and a townhall with community leaders and experts.

To participate, teachers are required to attend TWO workshops – both before and after the *summit*, and the *Summit* itself. They will receive curriculum materials ready for use in their classrooms. Lessons include background on the history of the immigration in Oregon, current struggles, ideas for change, and more. See the lesson in this issue for a preview of what's to come.



Here are the important dates:

September 19
registration due

September 27*
first teacher professional development session, 4:30 – 8 pm at the OEA, Tigard.

November 7
Youth Summit at Portland State University

November 8
required second teacher professional development session, 4:30 – 8 pm at the OEA, Tigard.

Youth Summit is offered **free of charge**. CLP has many supporters in this program including the Youth for Justice Program of the US Department of Justice, Oregon Education Association, Portland State University as well as many local businesses and law firms. This popular program often has a waiting list. Contact CLP now to register: **(503) 224-4424** or office@classroomlaw.org.

Legislature at Work:

VIEW FROM A COUPLE ROOKIES

Hi-ho, hi-ho, it's off to work they go. And work they did. Freshman members of Oregon House of Representatives, **Suzanne Bonamici** (District 34) and **Ben Cannon** (District 46), provided an inside look.



When asked what they wished they had known before the start of the session, Bonamici immediately piped up, "how to get by without much sleep during session!" Similarly, Cannon chimed in, "I might have underestimated just how grueling the campaign would be."

"... the breadth and complexity of the issues was a surprise – I found them challenging and seeking solutions rewarding."

Both Cannon, a social studies teacher active in the *We the People* program, and Bonamici, a longtime Classroom Law Project volunteer, were surprised by the heft of the work. "The range of subjects that the Legislature covers in a session is truly vast," Cannon said. "Oregon statutes fill thousands of pages. Agencies, interest groups, and legislators are constantly approaching the Legislature with proposed improvements to Oregon law in areas as diverse as construction contracting, water rights, utility regulation, medical scope of practice, and so on. Thousands of bills are introduced in every session." Bonamici summed it up by saying, "the breadth and complexity of the issues was a surprise," but added, "I found them challenging and seeking solutions rewarding."

Cannon was quick to note that even freshmen members could make an immediate impact. "There

was so much work to do that committee chairs and legislative leadership delegated projects to junior members such as myself. I led workgroups that hammered out agreements on bills."

Hammer away they did. Oregon's 74th Legislative Assembly allotted more money for schools and turned an eye toward civic education. A record \$6.245 billion was passed for public schools in the next biennium – an 18 percent increase over 2005-07 levels. A task force on civic education, Bonamici's brainchild, and money specifically for



civic education was authorized in the Oregon Department of Education's budget.

How did that happen? Legislators heard from active citizens. "In my (brief!) experience, legislators are highly susceptible to pressure from constituents on the vast majority of issues. If I hear from even five of my 60,000 constituents about a particular bill, I'm going to give it a much closer look than if I haven't heard from anyone," said Cannon. Not only did letters, calls and emails pay off, but also public testimony from children and adults alike made a difference. That is what Bonamici would like students and teachers to know, "I heard student testimony about the student journalism bill and the school nutrition bill, for example, and it was some of the best and most memorable testimony on those issues." Both advise, "get to know your legislator!"



A new face at CLP

Vanessa Holguin is our stellar new administrative assistant. She is singularly responsible for everything from having paperclips at our desks to tour guides at the courthouse. A recent Portland transplant after a dazzling academic career at Trinity College, we are delighted to have her aboard. She replaces Toni Kelich who begins law school this fall.

Democracy Camp II



So positive was Classroom Law Project's experience with launching the first *Democracy Camp* in 2006, that CLP was happy to reprise it again this summer. This latest international civic journey started on June 30, when CLP Executive Director **Marilyn Cover** and consultant **Susie Marcus**, departed for Croatia with nine Oregon high school mock trial students and their coaches. They joined eighteen students and nine teachers from different regions in Croatia for a weeklong cross exploration of the fundamental strengths and weaknesses of the American and Croatian trial systems.

"This trip really opened my eyes to other cultures around the world."

Primary among the goals was to have fun. And mock trials, in addition to offering a superb teaching strategy, are a lot of fun. Campers learned through a combination of interactive classroom lessons and activities that honed their critical skills and culminated in putting on the case of *Jackson v. The Great American Tobacco Company*.

The case was a civil one where deadly cancer caused by smoking cigarettes was at issue. Oregon student **Garrett McGahan** from St. Mary's in Medford commented on the irony of doing this mock trial in Croatia by noting, "that almost all the kids there smoked." **Allyson Brown**, Lakeridge High School, added that, "the Croatian trial was different, interesting," and upon putting on the trial at the end of the week, she described a Croatian student and first-time mock trialer as "brilliant." To celebrate, s'mores were introduced by the Americans to their new Croatian friends.

Classroom Law Project was once again fortunate to work with generous and caring Croatian judges who guided participants in understanding the justice systems. They encouraged participants to think about the various ways that courts can be organized and democracy can be served.



Brian Adesman, Garret McGahan, and Judge Sessa

They learned, for example, about the contrast between the level of responsibility that American and Croatian judges have—Croatian judges assume most of the responsibility during the trial process while the American judges share tend to share more responsibility with lawyers and the jury.

The bicultural friendships developed throughout the formal and informal educational activities of students and teachers also represented an important component of this program. Participants listed the ties they made while learning side by side with individuals from a different country as one of their most lasting impressions. Exciting field trips to stellar attractions throughout Croatia, such as the beautiful Adriatic ocean, the Roman amphitheater in Pula, the island of Krk, the town of Rovinj, and capitol city Zagreb, further fomented these ties by providing a friendly and relaxing environment. Sightseeing also served the important purpose of allowing American participants to establish connections between Croatia's history and its contemporary legal system. "This trip really opened my eyes to other cultures around the world," reported **Carmen Avram** from Parkrose High School. "I loved getting to know new people with amazing and bright personalities. I'd go back in a heartbeat."

LOUVRAN, CROATIA, JUNE 30 - JULY 7, 2007



The Oregon contingent included **Ben Saulson** and **Allyson Brown** from Lakeridge High School and their mock trial teacher-coach **Janell Sowers**; **Jessica Blanco** and **Daniel Serrano** from Madras High School and teacher-coach **Suzanne Callahan**; **Lois Parshley** and **Julie Becker** from Lincoln High School with their attorney-coach **Gardner Ashmanskas**; **Brian Adesman** and **Garrett McGahan** from St. Mary's High School in Medford and their teacher-coach **Kacey Dewing**; and **Carmen Avram** from Parkrose High School with her teacher-coach **Richard English**; plus **Marilyn Cover** and **Susan Marcus**. This is part of Civitas International, a program by the Center for Civic Education.

Mock Trial News

Let's give back Baker City its own regional competition. Beef up the competition in Medford. Let Lane County stand on its own. To do so, we need more teams. If you have one team, consider expanding to two. How about it?

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 four or more year hiatus. And Classroom Law Project and the Oregon State Bar can help find attorney-coaches for your team.

Grants Pass Mockers, Take Note!

Speaking of regional competitions, there is a change in Grants Pass. **New this year the Grants Pass regional competition on Saturday (not Friday), March 1.**

Registration will begin in mid-October. Teacher-coaches should watch their inboxes for registration materials, or look online at CLP's website, www.classroomlaw.org.



MORE TEAMS WANTED!

IMPORTANT DATES

- Mid-October** Registration forms available
- Nov. 30** Portland mini-mock trial non-competitive event
- Dec. 14** Team registration deadline, late fees begin
- Dec. 14** Listserve begins
- Jan. 4** Last day registrations accepted
- Jan. 11** No refunds after this day
- Mar. 1** All regional competitions to be confirmed; subject to Regional Coordinator's approval.
- Mar. 14-15** . . . State Finals competition – Portland

We the People

October 20, 2007

NEWS

Congressional District 1
Susan Marcus, Teacher-retired
swmarcus@aol.com

Congressional District 2
Brian Johnson, Teacher
Pendleton High School
brian_johnson@pendleton.k12.or.us

Congressional District 3
Diane Thelen-Sager, Teacher-retired
dianesager@gmail.com

Not for High School Only!

The acclaimed *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* curriculum is for upper elementary, middle, and high school. And the **books are free!** Contact your district coordinator now for more details.

Is Your High School Competing?

Or, is your school demonstrating a unit or two? If your high school intends to participate in a district competition, whether competing or demonstrating, then we have news for you. First, be sure to put the coaches' workshop on your calendar: Saturday, **October 20**, at Lewis & Clark Law School (details below). Second, whether you come to the workshop or not, it is very important to be in touch with your district coordinator (also below). Your district coordinator plans for the judges, rooms, and materials. So, please help by letting your intentions known as soon as possible.

Encore! Popular Coaches' Workshop, October 20

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 state 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 - 2 pm, Saturday, **October 20**, it is again at the beautiful campus of Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland. Lunch is provided so we need a headcount; let us know you intend to come. You will not want to miss it. Call today to reserve your place: **(503) 224-4424** or office@classroomlaw.org.

Contact your District Coordinator

To learn more about the programs, workshops, simulated hearings (both non-competitive and competitive), how get free books, and the like contact your district coordinator. 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.

Congressional District 4

Gayle Faust, Teacher - retired, g_faust@comcast.net

Congressional District 5 Co-Cordinators:
Chuck Chamberlain, Teacher, South Salem High School
charles@viser.net
chamberlain_chuck@salkeiz.k12.or.us

Diane Thelen-Sager, Teacher - retired
dianesager@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 12** Statewide Inservice Day – WTP workshops for teachers (grades 5-12) in Eugene, Pendleton, and Salem
- Oct. 20** Workshop for coaches of high school WTP teams
- Mid-Nov.** Notify your District Coordinator of your intent to compete
- Dec. 17-21, Jan. 8-10** date range for District competitions; contact your district coordinator!
- Jan. 18** State Competition – Portland (snow date Jan. 25)



Another new face at CLP

Jim Maher could not decide between teaching and practicing law, so he came to

Classroom Law Project. With the combined skills of a prosecutor, most recently in the US Attorney's office, and teacher, high school civics and more at Valley Catholic, Jim is a perfect fit for CLP's program manager position. All that and he knows mock trial, too! He picks up where Emily Shannon left off after she had her baby.



Immigration Lesson

MEXICO BORDER IMPROVISATION

Scenario: Where to Live

A family has recently arrived in Tijuana from southern Mexico and is living in a neighborhood in the Rio Alamar riverbed, about a mile from where the mother and father have found jobs. The neighborhood is not desirable for numerous reasons: if it rains, the house (really a shack) could flood or get washed away; there is no running water; no garbage collection; only a rickety bridge connects them to work and stores; the house is put together with whatever wood, plastic, and metal could be found; authorities sometimes dismantle settlements like this one. However, they pay no rent. A nearby neighborhood has a one-bedroom house for rent for \$90-100 per month. Wages average \$6 per day. If the family were to rent a home, they would live better but would not

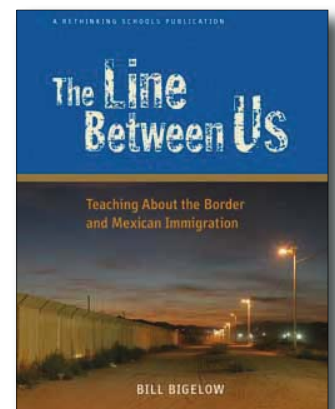
be able to save as much for the journey to the United States, where they believe life would be better. The family discusses whether they will rent a house or continue living in the poor area where they are now.

Procedure: Divide the class into small groups. Distribute the scenario to each group (more are in the book). Allow approximately 20 minutes for all groups to prepare to present to the group, though only one (two, three – teacher’s choice) will be selected to do so. Explain that this is based on an actual situation, and that improvisation is not like a scripted play. Instead they will decide on the characters, then discuss how the characters would react in the situation. They should not create a line-by-line script but, rather, be ready to act out the scenario. When presenting, sit in a circle with gap at one end for the improv. (Bill’s lesson provides many helpful hints on how to do this successfully.) The non-performing students should take notes on what they see. Following the improv, all students should write a few short sentences from the point of view of a character they portrayed or one that was performed. Circle the class for a read-around. On the board or overhead, write questions you would like them to think about, for example: what circumstance was most affecting, moving poignant? Is the only way to a better life by fleeing Mexico; why, why not? Where can we find hope?

Adapted with permission from The Line Between Us: Teaching About the Border and Mexican Immigration, by Bill Bigelow (bbpdx@aol.com), a Rethinking Schools publication (www.rethinkingschools.org/mexico), 2006; \$16.95.

Bill Bigelow, formerly a social studies teacher at Portland’s Franklin High School, has written a book that invites students to grapple with social, environmental, and political ideas, and discover our common ground across borders. This lesson provides a glimpse into this extraordinary book to an activity that has many more layers than that which is presented here.

Designed to help students appreciate the intimate ways economic forces impact families in Mexico, this lesson uses an improvisation strategy. Improvisations are one way to bring social analysis to a human level. The scenario below is one of 14 provided in the lesson.



September 2007

- 17 Constitution Day
- 27 Youth Summit Professional Development Seminar for Teachers

October 2007

- 5-8 Project Citizen Coordinator Conference – San Francisco, CA
- 12 State In-service Day for Teachers – Workshops around Oregon
- 12 OCSS Annual Conference including CLP workshops - Salem
- 20 *We the People* Coaches Workshop – Lewis & Clark Law School

November 2007

- 7 Youth Summit for Middle and High Schoolers – Portland State University
- 8 Youth Summit Professional Development Seminar for Teachers
- 30 Mini-Mock Trial Event - Multnomah County Courthouse, Portland

December 2007

- 7 From Classroom to Citizen: Oregon Civics Conference – State Capitol, Salem
- 17-21 Possible dates for District *We the People* competitions – Pendleton, Eugene, Portland; contact your district coordinator for details

January 2008

- 8-10 Possible dates for District *We the People* competitions – Pendleton, Eugene, Portland; contact your district coordinator for details

January 2008 *continued*

- 18 State *We the People* competition – Portland Federal Courthouse
- 25 Snow date for *We the People* state competition

March 2008

- 1 Mock Trial Regional Competition – 9 events statewide
- 14-15 Mock Trial State Finals Competition – Portland

April 2008

- tbc Legal Citizen Dinner – Portland

May 2008

- 1 Law Day Conference for High Schoolers – Portland State University
- 3-5 *We the People* National Finals – Arlington, VA
- 8-10 National Mock Trial competition – Wilmington, DE
- tbc *Project Citizen* National Showcase - Croatia
- tbc *WTP/PC* Days at the Capitol for 5th – 8th Graders

June 2008

- 21-24 *We the People* Coordinators' Annual Meeting – Washington, DC

July 2008

- 8-11 Summer Institute for High School WTP teachers
- tbc Golf Tournament

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