



CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

TEACHING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

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

Volume 23

Number 1

Fall 2008

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Oregon Government



Wouldn't it be cool to learn about Oregon government from the folks who make the laws? How about discussing landmark cases with Supreme Court justices? And what if you got to sit on the Senate floor, or at the Supreme Court bench? Sound good? Then come to Oregon Government – A Conference for Teachers at the State Capitol,

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

When: Friday, December 5th, 2008, 9:00am-4:30pm

Speakers: Each branch of Oregon government will be represented by: Governor Ted Kulongoski or his designee; Chief Justice Paul De Muniz and other members of the Supreme Court; Legislators from both parties; Educators showcasing successful programs.

Friday, December 5th. This conference is offered by Classroom Law Project and will feature presentations from key lawmakers and civic leaders.

Plan now for this Don't-Miss event. Schedule a professional development day and join us at the State Capitol on December 5th.

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.

Cost: \$50 per person includes materials and lunch

Registration form on page 2 ▶▶▶▶

We the People NEWS

NEW High School Edition Now Available!



Contact...

Your District Coordinator

To learn more about the programs for grades 5th-12th, workshops, simulated hearings (both non-competitive and competitive), and how to get free books, contact your district coordinator. Arranged by congressional district, the location of your school determines the coordinator.

Congressional District 1

Susan Marcus, Retired Teacher
swmarcus@aol.com

Congressional District 2

Brian Johnson, Teacher
Pendleton High School
brian.johnson@pendleton.k12.or.us

Congressional Districts 3 & 5

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

Congressional District 4

Gayle Faust, Retired Teacher
g_faust@comcast.net

The much anticipated new edition of the high school text is now available. If your school intends to participate in district competitions (whether competing or demonstrating), you will need the new text. Contact your district coordinator, on the left, for more information.

Substantial revisions have been made in the new edition, and they get two thumbs up. Oregon stakes a claim in this great new edition with our own Sue Leeson. Former member of the Oregon Supreme Court and current mediator in the Salem area, Leeson is one of the text's three co-authors. "I really like the Critical Thinking Exercises," Leeson says. "They do just that: ask students to think and respond critically to important constitutional concepts."

***We the People* Workshop: Inservice Day, Friday, October 10 – Eugene**

Come to Eugene on Friday, October 10th, for a day-long workshop on the We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution curriculum. Learn content and strategies in this interactive workshop on teaching the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. A bargain at \$25, this includes materials, lunch, AND a free classroom set of textbooks (for classroom teachers new to the We the People curriculum). Contact Classroom Law Project to register.



GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE FOR TEACHERS REGISTRATION

Mr/Mrs/Ms Name _____

Grade and Course(s) _____

School _____ District _____

School Address _____

City, _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Payment _____ \$50

Credit Card Visa MasterCard Check enclosed _____

Credit Card number _____ Exp. Date _____

Billing Address _____

Signature _____

Send to: Classroom Law Project December Conference • 620 SW Main, Suite 102, Portland, OR 97205

Questions? E-mail us at office@classroomlaw.org, or give us a call: (503) 224-4424.

Popular WTP Coaches' Workshop, October 18

This DON'T MISS workshop for coaches of high school We the People teams is set for Saturday, October 18. Coaches will examine both the new questions and the new text. Location is at the new office of the Oregon State Bar (near Tigard's Bridgeport Village) and goes from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Lunch is provided so we need a headcount. Contact Classroom Law Project today to reserve your place for this popular workshop.



First Place Grant High School Team (above).

Middle School students in court (close right), and with Representative Flores (far right).



Summer Institute participants preparing for discussions (below).

Content in Kah-Nee-Ta

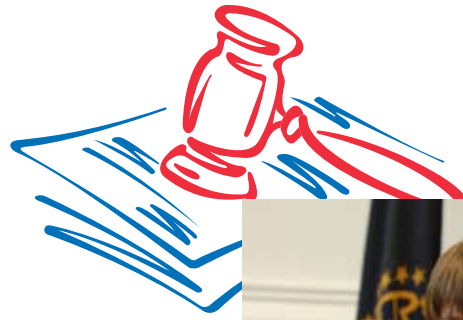
Classroom Law Project's annual week-long summer institute was held at Kah-Nee-Ta, a central Oregon resort on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Teachers from Pendleton to Astoria met here in July to learn about the newly released edition of the high school We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution text. Rich discussions of sovereignty, suffrage, and more unfolded as teachers spent the week unpacking the new textbook. Leading discussions was one of the text's co-authors and former member of the Oregon Supreme Court, the Honorable Sue Leeson. At week's end Eagle Point High School teacher Pam Long had this to say: "I (am inspired to) adopt lessons that cause my students to be better critical thinkers and through that to become more civically engaged. I left the summer institute full of optimism and great ideas. I cannot wait to see how it all plays out in the coming school year." Neither can we!

Important Dates

October 10	Statewide Inservice Day: WTP workshop for teachers (grades 5-12) Eugene.
October 18	Workshop for coaches of high school WTP teams.
Early January	(tbc) District competitions; contact your District Coordinator if you intend to compete!
January 23	State Competition – Portland.



Mock Trial News



No, this year's case is not a homicide, but somebody does die. More information will be posted on the Registration Forms available beginning in mid-October. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, we want more Mock Trial teams! Give back Baker City's own regional competition. Beef up the competition in Medford. Let Lane County stand on its own. If you have just one team at your school, consider expanding to two or three. If you do not yet have a Mock Trial team, Classroom Law Project would be happy to help find local attorneys to assist your team. We will even waive the \$200 registration fee for schools entering for the first time, or those reentering after a four-year or more hiatus. Come on, more teams make the competition, well, more competitive.

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



Important Dates

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Mid-October | Registration forms become available. |
| Late-November | Two copies of case mailed to teams submitting complete registration, including payment. |
| December 12 | Portland Mini-Mock Trial non-competitive event. |
| December 17 | Team registration deadline, late fees begin. |
| January 7 | Last day registrations will be accepted. |
| January 9 | Listserv responses begin (questions welcome any time). |
| January 14 | No refunds after this day. |
| February 28 | All regional competitions* |
| March 13-14 | State Finals Competition – Portland. *to be confirmed; subject to Regional Coordinator's approval. |

Be an Informed Voter: YOUTH SUMMIT 2008

Selecting the Next President: *What Questions Should We Ask?*

Classroom Law Project's annual Youth Summit for middle and high school students is set for Election Day, Tuesday, November 4th, at Portland State University. This year's topic: the Presidential Election, of course! Space is limited to the first 30 teachers, so register now to participate in this popular program.

Youth Summit combines professional development for teachers with active learning for students. Educators receive cutting-edge lessons, while students learn about the election and participate in classroom hearings, with a select few going on to represent their classmates at Portland State University. At the Summit, students will meet with elected officials, civic leaders, and other experts as well as weigh in with their choice for our next President.

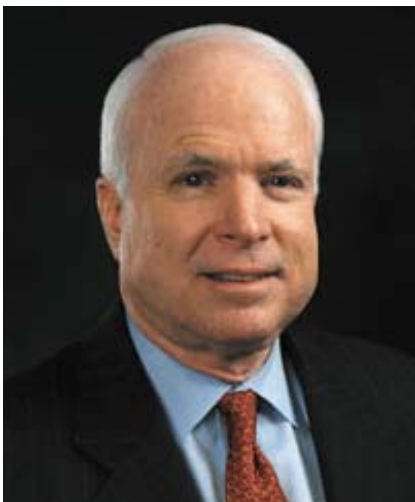
To participate, teachers are required to attend TWO workshops – both before and after the summit, plus the Summit itself. They will receive curriculum materials ready for use in their classrooms. Lessons include information on the role of the President as well as specifics about Senators McCain and Obama, how to be a discerning consumer of media, the ins and outs of voting, and much more.

Important Dates:

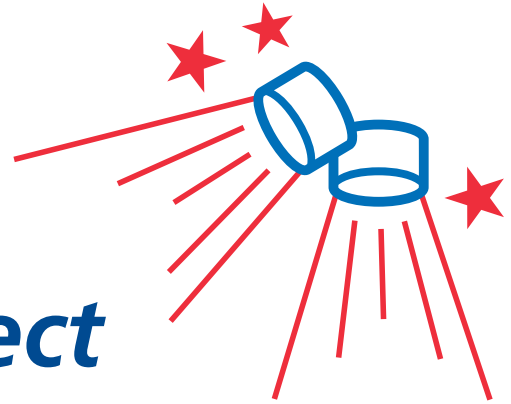
September 17	Registration due.
September 24*	First teacher professional development session 4:30pm – 8:00 pm at the OEA, Tigard.
November 4	Youth Summit at Portland State University.
November 5	Required second teacher professional development session 4:30pm – 8:00pm at the OEA, Tigard.

Classroom Law Project offers the Youth Summit FREE OF CHARGE. This popular program often has a waiting list. Contact CLP now to register:

503-224-4424 or **office@classroomlaw.org**.



Spotlight on the faces of Classroom Law Project



PROFESSOR JIM HUFFMAN

Professor Jim Huffman, one of CLP's strongest supporters and most trusted advisors, joined the Lewis & Clark Law School faculty in 1973 and has returned to teaching this fall after a two-year sabbatical and sixteen years as Dean. He hails originally from Fort Benton, Montana where he developed what has become a life-long passion for gardening and collecting insects. A graduate of Montana State, Tufts University and the University of Chicago Law School, Jim has taught a myriad of subjects ranging from constitutional law to natural resources and has authored more than 100 articles and chapters on all manner of legal topics ranging from "American Legal Education: Past, Present and Future" to "Chicken Law in an Eggshell." He has also been a visiting professor at Auckland University in New Zealand, the University of Oregon, the University of Athens in Greece, and Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala. While these impressive accomplishments might be enough to fulfill the average man, Jim is anything but average in his commitment to serving the community. In addition to Classroom Law Project, Jim serves on the boards of the National Crime Victims Law Institute, the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, and the Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment.

Jim and CLP Executive Director, Marilyn Cover, met in 1978, and by the next year, her dream of offering Street Law at Lewis & Clark had become a reality because of Jim's unwavering dedication to civic education at all levels. This marked the beginning of a dynamic collaboration with the Law School that has helped Classroom Law Project to gain



immeasurable credibility and build partnerships not just in Oregon, but across the nation as well. From the very beginning, Jim has worked to further our mission of teaching youth participation in democracy, and we are thrilled to have him serving as the chair-elect of our board of directors. We look forward to the coming years when he will be our board chair, steering CLP toward twenty-five more years of fostering active citizenship.

LESSON IDEAS:

Teaching about the Presidency and US Constitution

www.wtpcompanion.civiced.org

This is a must-bookmark for incredible resources from terms, to bibliographies, court cases, biographies, and links to other resources, primary sources, media clips and more!! The materials are organized by chapters in the new level three (high school) *We the People* text. I clicked on lesson 23 on what is the role of the President in the American Constitutional System? I found a debate by Cato Scholars on the authority of the executive branch by Learn Out Loud and a video clip from Annenberg Media on Executive Privilege under the media section. Under the Links section you can go to a website by the American Presidency Project containing all the presidential signing statements from the presidency of Herbert Hoover to the present, and all the executive orders from John Adams to the present. The full opinions of leading Supreme Court Cases from *Illinois Railroad v. Bosworth* in 1890 to *Hamdan*

v. Rumsfeld decided in 2006 are included in the court cases section. Having all this information organized in one place makes this website truly one of the most useful and user-friendly sites I have seen.

The introduction to the study of the Constitution contains five Critical Thinking activities analyzing the Declaration of Independence, Preamble to the Constitution, Examining your knowledge of the Bill of Rights, Analyzing the Pledge of Allegiance and Analyzing Judge Hand's famous "The Spirit of Liberty" quote. Students are urged to think about these discussions as they work through the six units of the *We the People* text. If you have not selected a favorite lesson for Constitution Day, September 17, I urge you to take a look.

Marilyn Cover
Executive Director

Expanding Civics:

Providing Professional Development in Civic Education

Modeled on a similar project in Colorado, Classroom Law Project with support from the Oregon Legislature set out to offer two-day workshops for teachers with the support of curriculum directors at county Education Service Districts. Eighty-five teachers participated in the workshops in Medford, Pendleton and Hillsboro last winter. Workshops included materials for 5th-12th grade teachers. Class sets of *Project Citizen* and *We the People* were provided in addition to mock trials. Teachers were provided the opportunity to submit an implementation plan and then evidence of student work in order to qualify for up to \$500 to apply towards the purchase of additional materials to support their civics program, field trips for their civics classes and additional planning time to coordinate community involvement in mock trials and simulated hearings.

A teacher from Eagle Point went back to her school and convinced all of the 5th grade teachers to participate in a combined mock trial program. An attorney parent assisted in the classes. Students visited the Jackson County Courthouse observing a number of "real" cases. On the day of the mock trials not only parents but other classes were invited to watch. Another teacher went back to school and worked with a language arts teacher and a science

teacher on *Project Citizen* with 85 students. Class projects included underage smoking, underage drinking and driving and increasing awareness of the homeless student population in their district. The class that focused on homelessness created an organization called *Helping Hands*. They set out to help raise awareness of the needs of students in their district and created a handout for teachers with contact information of community groups in addition to holding a dance to raise funds for homeless students. An Open House was held for presentation of the three projects. "I was blown away with the quality and the content of each of the projects. The students really bought into the project and it was truly a reflection of them. We've had many positive comments and emails regarding this project, from families, the district office and community members. Our students are making a difference and that makes me proud," said teacher Pam Long.

We are now in the process of planning additional workshops for this year. If your district is interested in recruiting at least 20 teachers for the two-day training please contact CLP. We will cover the teacher substitutes for one day of the training and provide materials.

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT 2008-09 CALENDAR

September 2008

27 OCSS In-service Conference

October 2008

- 6 CLP Senators' Cup Golf Tournament –
Columbia Edgewater Country Club
- 10 State In-service Day for Teachers –
Workshops around Oregon
- 18 We the People Coaches Workshop –
Oregon State Bar Office

November 2008

- 4 Youth Summit for Middle and High Schoolers –
Portland State University
- 5 Youth Summit Professional Development Seminar
for Teachers – OEA Office

December 2008

- 5 Statewide Conference on civic education –
State Capitol, Salem
- 12 Portland Mini-Mock Trial event –
Multnomah County Courthouse

January 2009

- 12 Spring Street Law Course Begins –
Lewis & Clark Law School
- 13-15 District We the People competitions –
Pendleton, Eugene, Portland
- 23 State We the People competition –
Federal Courthouse, Portland

January 2009

- 23 Training for new We the People teachers –
Federal Courthouse, Portland
- TBA Back-up State We the People competition
(in the event of snow)

February 2009

- 28 Mock Trial Regional Competition –
9 events statewide

March 2009

- 13-14 Mock Trial State Finals Competition – Portland

April 2009

- TBA Legal Citizen of the Year Award Dinner – Portland
- 25-27 We the People National Finals – Arlington, VA

May 2009

- 1 Law Day Conference for High School Students –
Portland State University
- 8-9 Mock Trial National Competition – Atlanta, GA
- 20-21 We the People and Project Citizen Days at the
Capitol – Salem

June 2009

- TBA Summer Law Camp for Ockley Green Middle
Schoolers

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