



## OVERVIEW OF LAW RELATED EDUCATION

The South Carolina Bar Law Related Education (LRE) Division is a service arm of the Bar that, since the mid-1980s, has provided teachers, school resource officers, juvenile justice personnel and lawyers with resources, materials and technical assistance to teach law and citizenship education. LRE serves as a central source for civic education in South Carolina, providing free trainings for teachers and school resource officers to implement programs such as Foundations of Democracy, Mock Trial, *Project Citizen*, the SC Supreme Court Institute, *Street Law*, Law for Police and Youth and *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*. LRE also provides online resources for students and teachers to include LawForKids.org, Law for Teachers and Law for Young Adults.

### PROGRAMS:

#### **Foundations of Democracy** Kindergarten – High School

**Foundations of Democracy** is a character education curriculum created by the Center for Civic Education. The curriculum is available for grades K-12 and addresses concepts and application of authority, responsibility, privacy and justice. Through participation in this program, students will increase their basic skills of listening, speaking, writing, reading, problem analysis and awareness of the Constitution and how it applies to their daily lives. Materials range from lap books for kindergarten to extensive lessons geared to high school students. All levels of curriculum come with a teacher's guide and a classroom set of textbooks.

#### **Mock Trial** Elementary, Middle and High School

The goal of **Mock Trial** is to educate students about the basis of our American judicial system and the mechanics of litigation. Through participation in Mock Trial, students will increase basic skills such as listening, speaking, reading, writing and problem analysis. It is most often conducted as an extracurricular activity, but can also be incorporated into law, forensics or public speaking classes.

At the **elementary level**, teachers have an excellent way to introduce the concepts of justice and the judiciary through fairy tale trials. We all know the stories of Goldilocks, Paul Bunyan, The Three Little Pigs and others. Through materials from the American Bar Association and supplied to elementary teachers by the LRE Division, students can learn about the courts in an interactive format. For most trials, there are even puppets available from the LRE Division for check out on a temporary basis. The cases and puppets to choose from are on the SC Bar website at [www.scbare.org/lre](http://www.scbare.org/lre).

At the **middle and high school levels**, each school enters a team of students sponsored by a teacher coach. Public schools, private schools and home school groups are welcome and encouraged to participate. Teams try each year's fictitious

## Mock Trial

Elementary, Middle and High School  
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case against other teams at regional competitions followed by a state competition for those teams eligible to advance. The middle school teams compete in the fall with a regional competition typically late October to early November and a state competition the first Friday and Saturday in December for those teams eligible to advance. The high school teams compete regionally near the end of February, and their state competition is the second Friday and Saturday in March for those teams eligible to advance. The winning state high school team advances to a national competition in May.

A free training for middle and high school Mock Trial teachers and attorney coaches is held September of every year and in the alternative, a webinar series is available online 24/7. The Mock Trial program is correlated to state standards and supports almost all of the core skills and abilities that students need to succeed in school, college and life. Students learn the valuable skills of critical analysis, public speaking, teamwork, oral argument, persuasion and good sportsmanship.

## Project Citizen

Upper Elementary – High School

**Project Citizen** is a curricular program for upper elementary, middle and high school students. It is also open to after school programs and youth groups. *Project Citizen* promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government. It helps young people learn how they can influence public policy. In the process, they develop support for democratic values and principles.

Entire classes of students or members of youth organizations work cooperatively to identify a public policy problem in their community. They then research the problem, evaluate alternative solutions, develop their own solution in the form of a public policy and create a political action plan to enlist local and state authorities to adopt their proposed policy.

A FREE one-day training is provided for teachers. Attendees receive a teacher's guide and a classroom set of student workbooks. The curriculum, which is correlated to South Carolina's social studies and English language arts standards, takes students through a six-step process that is displayed in a class portfolio as a final project.

## Street Law

High School

**Street Law** is a practical course in law – what is important in a person's everyday life. Information is presented through student-centered activities that enable teens to develop the skills they need to be effective citizens. This program is ideally team-taught by the teacher and the school resource officer.

Most often, *Street Law* is taught as a one-semester social studies elective or as a full-year elective. The text may also be used by teachers of practical business law courses. This curriculum is an approved SC Social Studies Course.

The teacher's edition enables social studies teachers (with the assistance of legal resource persons from the community) to tackle some of the difficult legal issues covered in the *Street Law* course. The teacher's edition includes instructional objectives, additional legal text, answers to problems, activities, mock trials, recommended multimedia resources, test banks, computerized testing and more. Student texts are available for purchase through the school book depository system.

## Law for Police and Youth

School Resource Officers

The **Law for Police and Youth** curriculum is specifically designed for School Resource Officers (SROs) to use with middle and high school age students in a variety of environments from the classroom to summer camps and community groups. The materials are set up in an easy to follow manner and include multiple teaching strategies for each lesson. The manual includes instructional objectives, additional legal text, answers to problems, activities, mock trials, recommended multimedia resources, access to online resources and more.

It is intended for this curriculum to be taught by certified SROs in the school setting. The lessons can supplement what is already being taught in US Government and US History courses, or as stand-alone units to address relevant issues within the individual school or community. Training and materials are provided for free to all SROs attending SRO School at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

## SC Supreme Court Institute for Teachers

Middle and High School

The **SC Supreme Court Institute for Teachers** focuses on the SC Supreme Court and the judiciary as a whole. Teachers learn how to bring SC courts and the law to life for their students while interacting with Supreme Court Justices, judges, attorneys and other educators. This five-day Institute includes a visit to the SC Supreme Court to hear oral arguments. A meet and greet with the Chief Justice and fellow justices is included with the Institute. The Institute also includes panel discussions with judges representing various courts, a technology component working with various website resources, and an opportunity to build lesson plans to take back to the classroom. The Institute requires some preparation work each evening and takes place in June.

## We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

Elementary – High School

The primary goal of **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** is to promote civic competence and responsibility among the nation's elementary and secondary students. What makes the program so successful is the design of its instructional program, including its innovative culminating activity – a simulated congressional hearing that has students “testify” before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles. They have opportunities to evaluate, take and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. This is performance assessment in action! In January of each year, middle and high school teams compete at regional competitions and may advance to a state competition. The state winner at the high school level advances to a national competition held in the spring in Washington, DC.

The *We the People* textbooks are designed for a wide range of student abilities and may be used as a supplemental text or for a full semester of study. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities and cooperative learning techniques help develop intellectual and participatory skills while increasing students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. Students also discover the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. A FREE one-day training is provided for teachers. The curriculum is correlated to South Carolina social studies and English language arts standards.

## RESOURCES:

### LawForKids.org

Middle – High School

**LawForKids.org** is America's first stand-alone website dedicated to teaching children about the law in a manner that kids can read quickly and easily understand. It provides an avenue for kids who have questions, but are not comfortable asking a teacher, counselor, police officer or attorney in their home community.

Access to LawForKids.org is free and available to South Carolina youth. Most importantly, youth may ask questions anonymously about the law at this website and receive correct, factual information from volunteer SC attorneys. In addition, there are quizzes, interactive games, cartoons, comics, law documents, searchable sections on South Carolina law and how it affects young people, as well as links to other law related education websites and sites for research and homework assistance. So often educating about the law is not only informative as to the actual content of the law, but also dispels myths that have become commonplace in society.

To access the site, visit [sc.lawforkids.org](http://sc.lawforkids.org). The LRE Division has FREE posters available for schools to promote the LawForKids.org program.

### Law for Teachers

Kindergarten – High School

**Law for Teachers** is a program designed to give teachers an informative and practical guide to the legal issues they face every day in the classroom. This unique training was created in response to questions from teachers about the laws that apply to them in all aspects of their profession. The best part about this training is that the presenters deliver the information in a manner ideal for nonlawyers.

All of these trainings are available 24/7 as FREE webinars. To register, go to [www.scbar.org/lre](http://www.scbar.org/lre) and click Law for Teachers.

Law for Teachers webinars are as follows:

- General School law
- First Amendment issues
- Legal issues in special education
- Student discipline
- SC Tort Claims Act
- Title IX

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## Law for Teachers

Kindergarten – High School  
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- Copyright Law (print, electronic, video and music)
- Harassment
- Teacher contracts/due process rights
- Issues with certification
- Cyberbullying
- Social media and free speech
- Reporting child abuse and neglect/confidentiality

## Law for Young Adults

High School

**Law for Young Adults** is an online resource made available for students turning 18, an important milestone in a young person's life. They will be making important decisions about their lives and at the same time need to be careful, as there can be long-term consequences to many decisions. This online resource is a document that can be downloaded and printed.

This resource is especially important because there are many new responsibilities that come with legally becoming an adult. Although they may, their parents no longer have to support them. If a crime is committed, that individual will not have the protection of the juvenile court; the stakes are higher and the consequence are more serious.

To check out this resource, go to [www.scbare.org/lre](http://www.scbare.org/lre).

## AWARDS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

### Awards and Recognitions

Each year, the LRE Division promotes Awards and Recognition opportunities. The **LRE Teacher of the Year Award** recognizes one elementary/middle school teacher and one high school teacher based on their implementation of LRE programs and commitment to the principles of law related education and includes a monetary reward. The **LRE Citizen of the Year Award** recognizes one individual (not a teacher or an attorney) who is committed to the principles of law related education and includes a monetary award. The **LRE Lawyer of the Year Award** recognizes one individual who has volunteered their time to the benefit of LRE programs. This recipient is recognized in front of their peers at the SC Bar House of Delegates meeting in May of each year.

**Scholarships** are available to high school seniors who have participated in Mock Trial and/or the *We the People* program. This is a one-time scholarship to assist with higher education costs.

The **winning teams** of the statewide High School Mock Trial competition and the *We the People* competition receive funding assistance to compete in their respective national competitions.

To check out Awards and Recognition application/nomination information, go to [www.scbare.org/lre](http://www.scbare.org/lre).

### Attorneys and LRE

The LRE Division strives to identify attorney volunteers in each county in South Carolina who are available to assist schools or community organizations who need expertise to educate young people about the law. Attorney volunteers serve in a variety of roles, such as:

- Coaches for Mock Trial teams
- Judges for Mock Trial and We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution competitions
- Legal oversight for LawForKids.org
- Legal oversight for Law for Teachers

- Legal oversight for Law for Young Adults
- Classroom speakers
- Presenters for career days
- Case writers for Mock Trial
- Members of the South Carolina Bar LRE Committee
- Recruiters for other attorney volunteers

Attorney volunteers receive pro bono credit hours for their time spent serving the SC Bar Law Related Education programs and projects.

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### For more information, contact:

Law Related Education Division • South Carolina Bar  
P.O. Box 608 • Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 252-5139 • [lre@scbar.org](mailto:lre@scbar.org)



[www.scbare.org/lre](http://www.scbare.org/lre)