

Law, Youth & Citizenship Program

A Statewide Law-Related and Civic Education Program



Law, Youth and Citizenship



Educational Programs

A partnership between the New York State Bar Association and the New York State Education Department, the Law, Youth and Citizenship (LYC) Program was established in 1974 to promote law-related education in New York's public and private schools. The LYC Program assists educators in preparing students, prekindergarten through 12th grade, for their active, engaged roles as citizens who have the knowledge, skills, and the civic attitudes fundamental to a healthy democracy. The goal of the LYC Program is to provide programs, training, and materials that enhance student understanding of the law, our constitutional form of government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. LYC programs promote the development of essential "life skills" and support many state educational standards across the curriculum.

Law, Youth and Citizenship...

- Provides a variety of law-related education professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers;
- Develops and distributes high quality materials on a wide range of law-related education topics;
- Provides opportunities for students to interact with members of the legal profession;
- Administers statewide educational programs;
- Exposes students to new and challenging experiences in the community.

Professional Development

Since 1974, thousands of elementary and secondary teachers have been instructed in law-related civics content and methodology through numerous professional development conferences, workshops and summer institutes sponsored by LYC.



Statewide Conference

The Law, Youth and Citizenship Program sponsors an annual statewide conference on law-related/civic education each fall. Elementary and secondary teachers, administrators, attorneys, criminal justice and law enforcement personnel and university educators attend this premier professional development opportunity each year. The goal of the conference is to provide stimulating and innovative sessions in law-related/civic education for participants new to the field as well as those with broad experience. Experts in law-related/civic education from New York State and around the nation conduct conference sessions. Participants are provided with up-to-date and relevant information as well as original materials and instructional strategies they can use on a daily basis. Certificates of attendance are issued for the purpose of attaining district in-service credit. A small number of scholarships are available each year to allow new teachers and first-time attendees to participate in the conference.

Registration materials as well as on-line registration are available at www.lycny.org.

Summer Institutes

Through grants from The New York Bar Foundation and the Center for Civic Education, LYC, in partnership with local educators, is able to offer summer institutes that are held in a variety of locations around the state. These institutes provide comprehensive and intensive law-related/civic education for teachers. Institutes showcase proven law-related/civic education programs and include strong content and pedagogy strands as well as field experiences. They all provide a strong focus on meeting state standards. Institutes are multi-day and often are free-of-charge. Registration materials are available at www.lycny.org.

School Law Conferences

School law conferences for attorneys, school board members, superintendents, principals and pupil personnel administrators are a result of a collaboration between LYC and the New York State School Boards Association. The goal of the conferences is to inform participants about key legal decisions, revised federal regulations and new laws affecting school district operations. Conferences are held in several locations throughout the state and are led by experts in the field. For more information visit the NYSSBA website at www.nyssba.org.

The LYC Website:

Resources and current program information can be found at www.lycny.org. Announcements for professional development opportunities, and professional development registration forms, as well as a number of law-related links, are available. View current and past mock trial cases. Several LYC publications can be downloaded from the site. Check the website at www.lycny.org often for the newest material for classroom use.

Some of our most popular classroom links:

New York State Civics Roadmap, www.nyscms.org

Presents a preK-12 civics education scope and sequence for New York State teachers, supervisors, and curriculum developers. Correlated to the national and state civic standards for social studies and English language arts. Includes student learning activities along with student and teacher resources and websites.

We the People & Project Citizen, www.civiced.org

Nationally acclaimed civic education programs administered by the NYSBA

State Court Watch, www.statecourtwatch.org

A resource for teachers and students that makes connections between New York State case law and the subjects required by the New York Social Studies Standards. State Court Watch now includes audiobroadcasts of short excerpts of interviews with individuals involved with all branches of New York State government designed to enhance understanding of the concepts and cases covered on the website.

Brown v. Board, www.brownvboard.net

Sponsored by the New York State Bar Association and minority Bar associations, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Helps bring the case to middle and high school students through dynamic lesson plans incorporating primary documents and the 2005 commemoration testimony.

Creating
Informed
Vital
Involved
Citizens
Statewide



Outreach

Distinguished Service Awards for Attorneys and Educators

Each year, **The Distinguished Service Award** is presented to the outstanding attorney who has contributed the most to law-related education in the past year. The **Emil Zullo Award** is presented to the educator that has demonstrated excellence in law-related education in the past year. Award criteria and applications are available at www.lycny.org or by contacting the LYC Program.

Youth Service Advocate

The NYSBA Youth Service Advocate designation is reserved for exceptional youth who have devoted a certain number of hours to law-related volunteer service in a given year. The Youth Service Advocate designation is an honor, and may be used on applications for college admission and scholarships, as well as on applications for other awards and honors. However, the designation is more than an honorary title. Youth Service Advocates are role models and, thus, become advocates for volunteer service, thereby empowering their peers – and even adults – to rise to the same level of service. Information and application available at www.lycny.org under “Awards.”

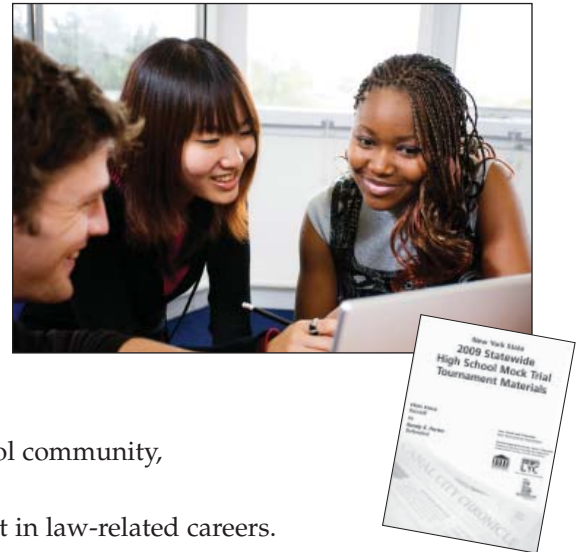


Mock Trial Tournament

In this educational program, co-sponsored by The New York Bar Foundation, high school students have the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of civil/criminal law and courtroom procedures. Thousands of students participate each year.

Objectives of the tournament are:

- Teach students ethics, civility and professionalism;
- To further student's understanding of the law, court procedures and the legal system;
- To improve proficiency in basic life skills, such as listening, speaking, reading and reasoning;
- To promote better communication and cooperation among the school community, teachers and students and members of the legal profession;
- To heighten appreciation for academic studies and stimulate interest in law-related careers.

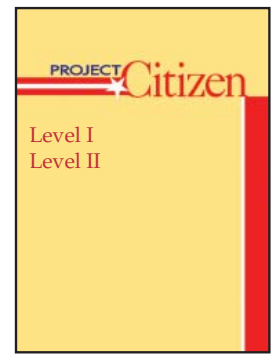
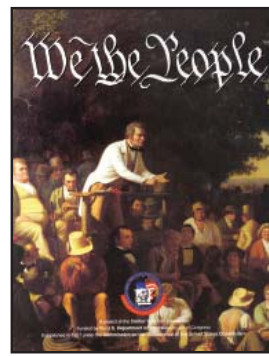
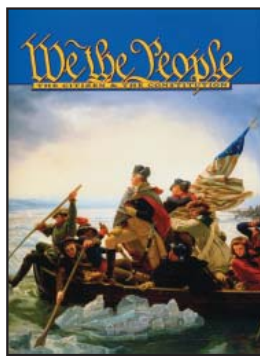


Registration materials, as well as Mock Trial case materials and a DVD, are available at www.lycny.org.

We the People Programs

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

This program is an innovative course of instruction on the history and principles of constitutional democracy in the United States. The program, funded by an act of Congress and sponsored nationally by the Center for Civic Education, is sponsored statewide by the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association, which offers free training and textbooks for grades four through twelve. A statewide network of Congressional District Coordinators administers the program locally. The two main components of the program are the textbooks and a culminating activity, the simulated congressional hearing, which can be done competitively or non-competitively. In addition to regular in-service training, an intensive weeklong summer institute is held each year. For more information, visit www.lycny.org or www.civiced.org.



We the People: Project Citizen

We the People: Project Citizen is a curricular program for students and youth groups that promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government. The program is sponsored nationally by the Center for Civic Education and is sponsored statewide by the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association. Free training and textbooks are provided through a network of coordinators. The three main components of this program are the *Project Citizen* text, the portfolio, and the simulated legislative hearing. Level One is elementary/middle school appropriate; Level Two is geared for high school and college. In addition to regular in-service training, state and regional institutes are held. For more information, visit www.lycny.org or www.civiced.org.

Law, Youth and Citizenship Staff



Director

Eileen Devine Gerrish was appointed Director of the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program in January 2006. Gerrish has had a long career in education, serving several terms as a school board member, and working as an administrator and teacher. She has been involved in education at all levels for three decades, from preschool teaching to college administration. She recently spent eight years as a high school Social Studies and English teacher for the Saranac Lake (N.Y.) Central School District. As a college administrator, she earned state and national awards for her work in college development. She has written successful grants for both high school and college-level programs. Prior to her career in education, she was Assistant Editor/Acting Editor of the Adirondack Daily Enterprise newspaper. Gerrish has experience in multimedia classroom methods, and is a trained Cooperative Learning teacher. She earned a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education, holds a master's degree in Administration and Leadership and recently completed a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership.

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Program Manager

Stacey Whiteley is the new Program Manager for the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program. Stacey brings with her years of experience working with youth from differing backgrounds, as well as working closely with members of the criminal justice, educational, and governmental fields through her former work at a not for profit and a criminal justice agency. Stacey also is an experienced public speaker who has conducted a number of trainings, lectures, and workshops. She earned her bachelor's in sociology from the State University of New York, Albany, NY. As the LYC Program Manager, Stacey is responsible for the coordination of the annual Mock Trial Tournament and Mock Trial Summer Institute. Acting as a liaison between the Mock Trial Subcommittee and the staff of LYC, Stacey facilitates the writing and researching of a new case each year. By working closely with the statewide County Coordinators, Stacey is able to distribute case materials, answer questions, recruit new school enrollment, and plan the state tournament finals. Stacey also maintains the LYC website and works on a number of other projects and programs for the LYC Program.

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We the People Programs Assistant

Debra Taylor is with the Law, Youth & Citizenship Program as Program Assistant for We The People: The Citizen & The Constitution & Project Citizen. She oversees the congressional district coordinators across the state. Her focus is the specific details relating to these programs, including the New York State and National Competition Finals and the Summer Institutes. She also serves as assistant to the LYC Director and can be contacted for any information regarding accounting, database management, workshops, meetings or events. Debra has an AAS in Early Childhood Education and a BS in Criminal Justice & Social Theory, in addition to being an experienced event coordinator and a longtime member of the Empire State Society of Association Executives.

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