Law, Youth & Citizenship Program

A Statewide Law-Related and Civic Education Program

40th Anniversary ★ 1974-2014

Law, Youth and Citizenship

NYSBA

Educational Programs

The Law, Youth and Citizenship (LYC) Program was established in 1974 by the New York State Bar Association to promote civic and 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 the New York State standards and Common Core State Standards across the curricula.

Law, Youth and Citizenship . . .

- Provides a variety of civics and 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.

LYC Programs & CCSS

The programs under LYC's umbrella are exemplary models of authentic assessment and offer critical thinking opportunities for students. Our programs are an important part of New York's mission to graduate students that are college, career and citizenship ready. The exploration of foundational US documents is an important aspect of LYC's outreach, and many of its programs teach presentation skills and offer cross-curricular study. Several programs require students to take, research and defend a position. All programs have a technology component and most require collaborative activities.

Professional Development

Since 1974, thousands of elementary, middle school 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.

Annual Conference

The Law, Youth and Citizenship Program sponsors an annual conference on law-related/civic education each fall. Teachers, administrators, attorneys, criminal justice and law enforcement personnel and university educators attend this premier professional development opportunity. A small number of scholarships are available each year to allow new teachers and first-time attendees to participate in the conference. Registration is available at **www.lycny.org**.

Summer Institutes

LYC, in partnership with local educators and grants from The New York Bar Foundation, 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.

Law Conference

LYC hosts a Public Education and the Law session each January at the NYSBA Annual Meeting in New York City. For attorneys, educators, school board members, superintendents, principals and pupil personnel, the goal of the conference is to inform participants about key legal decisions, revised federal regulations and new laws affecting school district operations.

Distinguished Service Awards

Each year, **The Distinguished Service Award** is presented to the outstanding attorney/judge 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.

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.

Recommended links for civic educators:

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 and Representative Democracy in America, www.civiced.org

Nationally acclaimed civic education programs from the Center for Civic Education and administered statewide by LYC.

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 multimedia 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.

iCivics, www.icivics.org

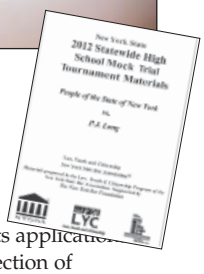
iCivics prepares knowledgeable, engaged 21st century citizens by creating free and innovative educational materials. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor founded iCivics to reverse Americans' declining civic knowledge and participation. iCivics has produced 16 educational video games as well as teaching materials and a comprehensive, standards-aligned civics curriculum.

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 to:

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


New York State
2012 Statewide High School Mock Trial Tournament Materials
People of the State of New York
vs.
P.S. Long

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

Mock Trial Summer Institute

The Mock Trial Summer Institute (MTSI) was established in 2005 to strengthen students' and teams' understanding of Mock Trial and its applicat... Forty-eight students are selected from New York State schools to attend this week–long, intensive camp-like experience. Under the direction of counselors, who are Mock Trial teacher-coaches, and experienced attorneys, the students study all aspects of Mock Trial and apply their studies to the presentation of a Mock Trial case on the final day of MTSI.

Information about Mock Trial and MTSI is available at **www.lycny.org**
Mock Trial information is also updated through Twitter. **www.twitter.com/nysmocktrial**
The Mock Trial blog site welcomes comments:
http://nysbar.com/blogs/mocktrial/

You can also become a fan of NYS Mock Trial and Mock Trial Summer Institute on Facebook.

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: NYSBA welcomes participation by individuals with disabilities. NYSBA is committed to complying with all applicable laws that prohibit discrimination against individuals on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of its goods, services, programs, activities, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations. To request auxiliary aids or services or if you have any questions regarding accessibility, please contact us at lyc@nysba.org or 518.486.1748

Law, Youth and Citizenship Staff

Director

Eileen Devine Gerrish was appointed Director of the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program in 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 is a New York certified high school Social Studies teacher. 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 holds a master's degree in Educational Administration and Leadership.

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Program Manager

Kim Francis was appointed LYC Mock Trial Program Manager in January 2014. She began her career with NYSBA in 2000 in the Continuing Legal Education Department as Program Coordinator where she was responsible for creating and implementing over 60 high quality programs per year. Kim worked closely with attorneys, judges, and others within the legal community to coordinate these programs in multiple locations in New York State. As the LYC Mock Trial Program Manager, Kim is responsible for the coordination of the annual Mock Trial Tournament and the Mock Trial Summer Institute. Acting as a liaison between the Mock Trial Subcommittee and the staff of LYC, Kim facilitates the writing and researching of a new case each year. By working closely with the statewide County Coordinators, Kim is able to distribute case materials, answer questions, recruit new school enrollment, and plan the state tournament finals. Kim also maintains the LYC Mock Trial website and social media outlets, and works on a number of other projects and programs for the LYC Program.

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Administrative Assistant

Debra Taylor is the administrative assistant for the LYC Program. She is an experienced event coordinator and manages the Annual LYC Civics and Law-Related Education Conference held each fall. Debra 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.

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www.twitter.com/NYciviced

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Scan to visit our website

NYSCSS New York State Council for the Social Studies — 2014 Partners in Education Award ~ NY State Council of Social Studies

CDCSS — 2011 Partners in Education Award ~ Capital District Council of Social Studies

2010 Business/Community Partnership Award ~ New York State Middle Schools Association

ESSAE — Winner of the 2008 Excellence in Education Award ~ Empire State Society of Association Executives

Division for Public Education, American Bar Association — Law Day 2007 Outstanding Activity Award ~ American Bar Association