



Illinois State Bar Association  
Standing Committee on Law-Related Education Newsletter

November/December 2013

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ILLINOIS STATE  
BAR ASSOCIATION

# LAW-RELATED EDUCATION

*The Newsletter of the ISBA's Committee on Law-Related Education*

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*Statements, expressions of opinion or comments appearing herein are those of the editors or contributors,  
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## Mock Trial Plans

The 2014 Illinois High School Mock Trial problem is now available at the Illinois State Bar Association Web page. The problem and registration materials can be found by going to <http://www.isba.org/teachers/mocktrial>. The registration deadline for entering the Mock Trial Invitational is January 14, 2014.

This year's problem is based on the 1938 radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds". This broadcast caused fear and panic among some listeners who did not realize it was a fictional dramatization of a Martian invasion of the Earth. The facts have been modified so that current law applies and the events take place in Illinois.

The Mock Trials will be held on the campus of the University of Illinois, in Champaign Illinois on Saturday March 8 and Sunday March 9, 2014.

## War of Worlds on PBS

The Public Broadcasting Service show American Experience has recently screened a documentary on the "War of the Worlds" radio show. October 30<sup>th</sup> of this year was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1938 radio broadcast. This Orson Wells broadcast on Halloween eve dramatized a Martian invasion of the Earth. The dramatization was in the form of news bulletins. Many listeners who did not hear the opening introduction assumed they were hearing news of a real invasion and were fearful for their safety. The documentary is available to be viewed on the Public Broadcasting American Experience website.

(<http://video/pbs.org/program/american-experience>)

The High School Mock Trial problem this year is a suit for emotional stress based on the "War of the Worlds" radio show. The case asks for damages from the broadcaster for airing a show that caused fear and panic among the listeners who did not realize it was a fictional broadcast. Students, parents and others interested in the Mock trial may find that viewing this show is helpful in understanding the Mock Trial problem.

## Chairs Report

Once again, this publication comes to you through the work of the *Standing Committee on Law Related Education for the Public* of the *Illinois State Bar Association*. The Standing Committee has been hard at work, with special focus on civics education and the 2014 ISBA High School Mock Trial Competition.

Led by **Suzanne Schmitz** of Carbondale, our *Civics Education Committee* has been laboring to create and tell the world about, various *free* resources made available throughout the State by the ISBA. In fact, you may have seen **Ann Pictor** of Springfield at the Fall 2013 Conference ("A Social Studies Renaissance") of the *Illinois Council for the Social Studies at Harper College* in Palatine. Ann helped display many of the resources of the ISBA, along with those of the Illinois Judges Association. Neither the ISBA nor the IJA receive any direct benefit from these endeavors, but instead, devote significant operations to coordinate *volunteer* attorneys and judges to serve the community through education.



Led by **Sarah Taylor** of Carbondale, our *Mock Trial Committee* has spent countless hours drafting and editing materials for, and otherwise coordinating the upcoming mock trial competition. Huge thanks go to our *hard working* sub-committee of **Pablo Eves** of Bloomington, **Jennifer Franklin** of Carbondale, **Stephen Iden** of Springfield, **Rocky Martinez** of Culver, **Marley Nelson** of Champaign/Decatur, and **Stan Wasser** of Springfield. This year's competition commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "War or the Worlds" broadcast of Orson Welles, through a case which emanates from the same. We have a few openings for new teams, and encourage participation. Also, thanks go to **Dean Bruce Smith** and the *University Of Illinois College Of Law* for hosting the competition (and for their commitment to legal education in the State). *All Roads Lead to Champaign...March 8 and 9, 2014!*

The Standing Committee remains in full throttle in its attempt to achieve an ambitious agenda with volunteers *and* meager funding. "In simple parlance, we are working to make our State a better place through education." Members of the Standing Committee and other volunteers stand ready, willing, and able to visit schools and other places to talk/teach civics, law, and related subjects. Please let us know when and where we can help. As well, let us know your ideas on additional ways for us to help. Otherwise, best wishes for a happy holiday season!

### Teaching about Elections

March 2014 brings primary elections leading to November 2014 elections for statewide officers such as Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Comptroller, to name a few. Voters will also elect a U.S. Senator and their local representatives and county officials. The Illinois State Board of Elections provides useful materials for teachers at:

<http://www.elections.state.il.us/InfoForEducators.aspx>

Another good source of information about voting is the League of Women Voters of Illinois. Recent changes give more voting and other rights to those almost 18. See this excerpt from lwvil.org –

**You can vote in the next election as long as you are 18 by election day.** Want to organize a voter registration day at your high school or college? Contact us at [voterservice@lwvil.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvil.org)

**Register online.** Go to [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) to register online. You can download the form but the completed, signed document must be mailed into your local election authority. When you register by mail your form must be postmarked prior to the close of registration.

**Be an election judge!** High School Juniors and Seniors can serve as election judges as long as they meet the following requirements: U.S. citizen; minimum 3.0 GPA; permission of principal and parent. College students who are not entitled to vote in the precinct or county where they go to school, can still be an election judge in that county. Contact the County Clerk's office. Find your local contact information at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)



## Law Day 2014

### American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters

One of our most cherished national ideals, expressed eloquently by Abraham Lincoln, is “government of the people, by the people, for the people.” It is a principle enshrined in our Nation’s founding documents, from the Declaration of Independence’s assurance that governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed, to the opening three words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, “We the People.”

The right to vote is the very foundation of government by the people. For this reason, striving to establish and protect every citizen’s right to vote has been a central theme of American legal and civic history. Much of the struggle on voting rights began decades ago, but the work is far from complete, and a citizen’s right to cast a ballot remains at risk today.

As we approach the 50th anniversaries of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 2014 Law Day theme, *American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters*, calls on every American to reflect on the importance of a citizen’s right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in our democracy.

Reprinted from ABAnet.org website

## Lake and DuPage County Courts Guide

A great resource for Illinois teachers on the Illinois courts and other topics is found at the website of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit (Lake County).

<http://www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/Pages/educators.aspx>

The teacher guide at this website offers a history of US and IL courts, an outline of the structure of IL courts, and a glossary of frequently used terms. Also included is a mock trial script for trying Goldilocks and numerous lesson plans for grades K-12. Also other items at the website include resources for Law Day and for Mock Trials.

The Eighteenth Judicial Circuit (DuPage County) also presents a history of IL courts and their operations at its website at <http://www.dupageco.org/COURTS/>



### OyezToday

[Oyez Project at Chicago-Kent](#)

OYEZTODAY at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law offers you the latest information and media on the current business of the Supreme Court of the United States. OYEZTODAY provides: easy-to-grasp abstracts for every case granted review, timely and searchable audio of oral arguments + transcripts, and up-to-date summaries of the Court's most recent decisions including the Court's full opinions. You will have access to all this information on your Smartphone Android with the ability to share reactions on Facebook or by email. (Recordings of opinion announcements from the bench will follow when the Court releases these files to the National Archives at the start of the Court's next Term).

### MyCongress By ObjectiveApps,

News, twitter feeds, votes by members of Congress.

### White House Mobile App

The Official White House app brings you the latest from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, including news from the White House blog and press briefing room, photo and video archives, and live streams of events around the country with President Barack Obama and administration officials.

As seen on CNN, NBC, Fox, Forbes, NY Daily Times and Business week! Check out our web page for more details.

### Visible Vote Mobile by [Visible Vote LLC](#)

Visible Vote was designed from the ground up to address transparency and accountability in our government!

Visible Vote is the first and only application that allows you to cast a virtual vote on the same measures that your representatives vote on? And then informs them of your position via weekly fax. Visible Vote also monitors how often your Congressmen vote in alignment with you and the people they represent.

The only question left is whether or not your legislators are doing their job representing you? Hold them accountable like never before. Visible Vote hands the power back to you.



Visible Vote is an unbiased service that aims to bring greater transparency to our representative form of government. Discover the most technologically effective way to advise, communicate and track your legislators today.

What you can do with this app:

- 1 Send a Letter to your Legislators through your BlackBerry®.
- 2 Track how your legislators are voting on issues you care about.
- 3 Vote on the same Bills as your legislators and update your legislators on your vote. And more...

## Illinois Democracy Schools

### FIVE ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED AS DEMOCRACY SCHOOLS

Reprint from a letter Robert R. McCormick Foundation

*Preparing Young People for Informed, Effective Engagement in Our Democracy*

**CHICAGO, September 17, 2013**— The Illinois Civic Mission Coalition (ICMC) has recognized five exceptional Illinois high schools as Democracy School. Illinois Democracy Schools are recognized for providing students with authentic experiences in the rights, responsibilities and tensions inherent in living in a constitutional democracy. Through these experiences, participating schools strive to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for informed, effective engagement in our democracy.

Since 2006, 22 Illinois high schools have successfully completed a school-wide civic assessment and have been subsequently recognized as Democracy Schools. The five high schools that have earned this distinction in 2013 include:

- Carbondale Community High School, Carbondale, IL
- John Hancock College Prep High School, Chicago, IL
- Josephinum Academy, Chicago, IL
- Maine East High School, Park Ridge, IL
- Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL

The new Democracy Schools will receive a stipend from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, which convenes the ICMC, to invest in high quality civic learning initiatives, as well as a banner for public display. Each high school will also receive a certificate signed by the Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education, Gery Chico, the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, Thomas L. Kilbride, and the schools' state legislators.

“The availability of high-quality, school-based civic learning opportunities for all Illinois students are vital to a thriving democracy,” said Shawn Healy, chair, Illinois Civic Mission Coalition and civic learning and engagement scholar, Robert R. McCormick Foundation. “The committed students, teachers, administrators, and school board members of these five schools should be commended for living their civic mission and joining the growing ranks of Illinois Democracy Schools.”

Illinois Democracy Schools embrace their mission to provide high quality civic learning opportunities for all students. Their leadership emphasizes civic learning through development of professional faculty and staff capacity, and proven civic learning practices are woven throughout



the formal curriculum. Democracy Schools foster a school climate that nurtures and models civic dispositions and build reciprocal relationships within the surrounding community.

Democracy Schools provide numerous opportunities for students to participate in the democratic process through a range of classes and clubs. From class discussion on current issues and democratic simulations to extracurricular and service learning opportunities, students are able to experience first-hand the critical role they can play in shaping their government and society.

**About the Robert R. McCormick Foundation** The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic programs, Cantigny Park and museums, the Foundation helps develop citizen leaders and works to make life better in our communities. The Foundation was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert **2013 Illinois Democracy Schools - Pg. 2** R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest foundations, with more than \$1 billion in assets. To learn more about the McCormick Foundation visit McCormickFoundation.org, follow us on Twitter at or like us on Facebook.

#### **About the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition**

The Illinois Civic Mission Coalition is a broad non-partisan consortium including educators, administrators, students, universities, funders, elected officials, policymakers and representatives from the private and non-profit sectors. Formed in 2004 by the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, the ICMC is part of the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, a national initiative to restore a core purpose of education to prepare America's youngest citizens to be informed and active participants in our democracy. The Robert R. McCormick Foundation has convened the ICMC since 2010. For more information visit:

[www.McCormickFoundation.org/DemocracySchools](http://www.McCormickFoundation.org/DemocracySchools).

### **Illinois Statehood Day, December 3rd**

December 3<sup>rd</sup> is Statehood Day in Illinois. Illinois was admitted into the Union on December 3, 1818 as the 21<sup>st</sup> state. This may be a good day to study Illinois history and government. There have been several very good books written on Illinois history. Three of the many books available on Illinois history are: *A Chronology of Illinois History*, by Janice Petterchak and others; *Illinois: A History of the Prairie State* by Robert Howard; and *Illinois: Its History and Legacy* by Roger Bridges and Rodney Davis.

The Illinois State Bar Association website contains several items on Illinois history and government. The site contains materials and lesson plans on Lincoln, the history of Illinois courts and many other law related topics. The booklet *Understanding the Illinois Constitution* has a chapter on the constitutional and political history of the state. All these resources are found by clicking on the Public on the banner of the [isba.org](http://isba.org) home page and then on For Teachers

### **Martin Luther King Day and Law Related Education**

The Martin Luther King Holiday in January is an opportunity to introduce LRE lesson plans into the classroom. Dr King was a leader in the civil rights movement. *Brown v. The Board of Education* which held that segregation in schools was unconstitutional is one of the foundation



cases in the civil rights movement. There are several excellent lesson plans available on both Dr King and the *Brown* Decision.

The National Park Service has prepared lesson plans to help teachers present materials on each of the Parks, National Monuments, and Historic Sites. The website of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta Georgia has excellent lesson plans and curriculum material for teaching about the life and legacy of Doctor King. Educational materials may also be found at the Martin Luther King Memorial in Washington D. C. The Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka Kansas has several lesson plans on teaching about the *Brown* decision and integration. All of these National Park Service resource may be found by search the Service's web site at [nps.org/](http://nps.org/)

Another good source for information on the *Brown* decision is the Street Law web site on Landmark Supreme Court Cases. In addition to *Brown*, there can be found at this web site several other cases of importance in American history such as *Marbury v. Madison* or cases that emphasize school law and student right issues. The lessons plan and teaching materials about *Brown* and the other cases have been prepared in cooperation with the Supreme Court Historical Society. The web address for the landmark cases is <http://www.streetlaw.or/en/landmark/home>

Links to the National Park Services and the Landmark Cases site can also be found under Other Resource on the Illinois State Bar Association LRE page.

### Law Related Education Events

There are several conferences of interest that may be of interest to readers of this newsletter. If anyone knows of conferences training sessions or other events that should be announced in this newsletter please send them to Kim Furr, Staff Liaison. LRE Committee at [kfurr@isba.org](mailto:kfurr@isba.org).

Hamburger University Oak Brook Constitutional Rights Foundation, Equal Justice under Law Conference, December 6, 2013, Chicago. This is a training program for teachers and students focusing on learning about Supreme Court cases.

ISBA High School Mock Trials, Registration deadline, January 14, 2014; Trials are March 8 & 9, 2014 in Champaign, IL. National High School Trials are May 8 – 10, 2014 in Madison, WI. Constitutional Rights Foundation, Youth Summit, May 2, 2014 at the Dirksen Federal Building, Chicago. Training dates are March 14, 2014 in Chicago.





*The Illinois State Bar Association's Law-Related Education Newsletter is provided free of charge on a quarterly basis during the school year. We are dedicated to promoting law-related education resources and discussion topics appropriate for use in classroom or community settings. If you do NOT wish to receive this complimentary newsletter, please reply and indicate in the message line that you wish to be removed from our mailing list.*

*Current subscribers: If your e-mail changes, please let us know. And, please feel free to forward this publication to others who may be interested.*

*Note: The Illinois State Bar Association's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public does not share or sell its mailing list.*

This and other editions of the ISBA's LRE Newsletter are available on-line at <http://www.isba.org/Sections/lrenewshome.html>

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