

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015



Fundraising Campaign: Show Your Love!

The Florida Law Related Educated Association, Inc. is seeking donations from attorneys, law firms, teachers, students, corporations, parents, and anyone dedicated to educating the public in the area of experiential, nonpartisan civics and law related education for its annual fundraising campaign. As stated by Annette Boyd Pitts, founding Executive Director, "as a nonprofit, individual and corporate donations play an important role in our continued existence." FLREA provides a wide range of programs, including academic competitions (mock trial, moot court, mock congressional hearings, public policy showcases, etc.), scholarship opportunities (United States Senate Youth), unique professional development opportunities for teachers (Justice Teaching Institute, three branches of government, etc.), adult education presentations, education policy models, middle school civics curriculum materials, Florida Law Honors Society, and a wide range of other programs, training, and materials. Help us raise \$300,000 this year with your donation! Show your love for FLREA! Click [here](#) to view the contribution form or click [here](#) to donate online.



Florida High School Mock Trial

Teams from across Florida are gearing up for our statewide high school mock trial competition to be held March 5-7, 2015 in Orlando at the Orange County Courthouse! Teams from sixteen judicial circuits will compete in four rounds of competition prior to the final round scheduled for the ceremonial courtroom. "It has been a very competitive year," remarked Erin Watson, state program director for the high school mock trial competition. Circuit competitions were held throughout the state as teams competed for the opportunity to represent their circuits in the state championship. Fletcher High School from Duval County, last year's state champions, won their circuit competition this year and will be returning to compete for the 2015 title, but they will have a lot of competition as new and returning teams line up to take the title as well. "This simulation helps students understand the role of the courts and the procedures in place for a fair and accountable process," stated Watson. The state winners will travel to North Carolina this year for the national finals. Florida placed eleventh last year in the national competition! Good luck to all teams. If you are interested in volunteering to serve as a presiding judge, scoring judge, or timekeeper, please contact Erin at ecrowe@flrea.org or Annette Boyd Pitts, Executive Director at staff@flrea.org. For more about the mock trial program, click here.



Calling All Former Students...

If you have participated in any of our programs throughout the years and would like to share your experience and how they have impacted your life, please share with us by contacting Annette Boyd Pitts, Executive Director at staff@flrea.org. Take a look at the next article, which is from student, Amy Sapp, a participant in our high school mock trial program and the United States Senate Youth Program!



Amy Sapp, Former Student Shares Her Experiences with FLREA

Amy Sapp, former Tate High School mock trial attorney and US Senate Youth Program participant, writes about her experiences with FLREA in a special article. The article has been sent to The Florida Bar News and the Florida Council for the Social Studies journal. Amy says, "From shaking hands with Secretary of State John Kerry to performing the Florida 'gator chomp' with Senator Marco Rubio, the opportunities I have gained through working with the Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. (FLREA) remain comparable to none."



We the People Program Expanding in Florida

The We the People...the Citizen and the Constitution program is expanding into Florida middle schools. The program, consisting of a textbook and simulated congressional hearing, operates at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Classroom hearings are held as well as competitive hearings at the high school and now middle school levels. This year a middle school e-book pilot was undertaken in Florida in multiple counties. Martin County teacher Kathleen Cannon was excited to participate and gain the experience for her students. "This was one of the most extraordinary experiences I have ever participated in with my students," Cannon stated. "This will change how we approach civics in our county!" MAST Academy in Miami-Dade won the state finals and will represent Florida in the national finals in Washington, D.C. in April. Marion Technical Institute won the state professionalism award and will attend the national competition as a wild card team. For additional information, contact Erin Watson or Annette Boyd Pitts at staff@flrea.org.



2015 Florida Bar YouTube Contest

The Florida Bar and its Law Related Education Committee are pleased to invite all Florida high school students to participate in the 2015 Law Day YouTube contest as part of The Florida Bar's annual Law Day celebration. The purpose of the YouTube contest is to promote interest in the law and its traditions through research, participation and ingenuity in creating a theme-based video for competition with other students all across Florida. For more details, click [here](#).



Justice Teaching Awards

The Justice Teaching Initiative of Florida Supreme Court Justice Fred Lewis is seeking nominations for a Justice Teaching Select Committee "Judge of the Year," a Justice Teaching "Volunteer of the Year," and a Justice Teaching "Teacher of the Year" for the 2014-2015 school year. These awards will be given to the select committee judge, the volunteer, and the teacher who have most exemplified the spirit and purpose of Justice Teaching to deliver civic education to the children of Florida. Click [here](#) for more details.



Justice Teaching Institute

Twenty-five teachers from throughout Florida will be attending the Supreme Court of Florida Justice Teaching Institute in March to learn about the state courts using a case study method. Teachers will explore the courts and the Constitution in a four and one half day program with all seven justices serving as faculty. The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. assists in coordinating the program and providing instructional assistance. This year teachers will examine the structure and function of the state courts, motion to suppress hearings, Miranda warnings and the assistance of legal counsel, among other law related topics. Teachers will participate in a simulated appellate hearing serving as justices and attorneys to reenact a mock oral argument. Judge Karen Cole from the Fourth Judicial Circuit and Judge Kelly McKibben from the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit will serve as mentor judges and assist the teachers in dissecting the material throughout the week. At the conclusion of the institute, teachers will observe an actual Supreme Court oral argument. For additional information, contact Annette Boyd Pitts at staff@flrea.org.



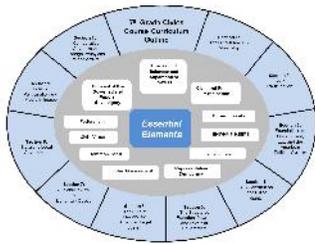
2015 American Bar Association (ABA) National LRE Conference and Summer Institute

The 2015 National LRE Conference at the National Constitution Center is in Philadelphia, PA from October 29th to 31st. The theme is "The Bill of Rights in a Digital Era." A call for proposals will be coming soon. ABA is also still accepting applications for their Summer Institute for Teachers: Federal Trials and Great Debates in United States History. For more information, click [here](#). Travel is reimbursed and hotel costs are covered upfront by the ABA.



2015 American Lawyers Alliance LRE Teacher of the Year Contest

The American Lawyers Alliance (ALA) is once again sponsoring its Law-Related Education "Teacher of the Year" Contest. For over 50 years, ALA has recognized the vital role that teachers play in Civics Education. One middle school and two high school teachers will be chosen as the ALA LRE 2015 Teachers of the Year. The winner will be presented a \$1500 cash award at the Annual Meeting of the American Lawyers Alliance in Chicago, Illinois, in early August 2015. An additional \$500 for hotel and travel expenses will be given to each recipient who attends the Awards Luncheon. The application deadline is March 15, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information and instructions on how to nominate teachers.



Civics Curriculum Wheel

The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. has developed a wide range of lessons and accompanying PowerPoint presentations and resources to help with your seventh grade civics course and preparations for the Civics End of Course Exam. Do not forget to sign up for the valuable resources available in the Civics Curriculum Wheel at www.flrea.org. Click [here](#) to register for the materials. Training is available in districts with 25 or more participants. Webinars are also being provided to groups of all sizes. Contact staff@flrea.org for details.



Civics EOC Exam

Recently FLREA held a Civics Webinar to introduce the seventh grade civics and government benchmarks, valuable tips to help prepare students for the civics end of course exam, incredible resources, and recommended strategies. You can review the taped webinar [here](#). The program includes a PowerPoint presentation, as well as the audio of the webinar.



Civics Item Specification Booklet (Item Specs)

Every seventh grade civics teacher should be intimately aware of the Civics EOC Item Specification Booklet. This booklet contains a range of information to help clarify specifically how the benchmarks will be addressed on the end of course exam. The booklet contains benchmark clarifications, content limits, content focus, vocabulary, and more. The civics textbooks that are currently in use may have been published prior to the release of the Item Specification Booklet. Make sure you have this [document](#) to reference daily as you teach the civics benchmarks.



American Civic Education Teacher Awards

In 2006, the Center for Civic Education, the Center on Congress at Indiana University, and the National Education Association launched the American Civic Education Teacher Awards (ACETA), designed to recognize educators who have demonstrated a special expertise in teaching about the US Constitution, the US Congress, and public policy. Each year, the ACETA program selects and showcases three teachers who have done exemplary work in preparing young people to become informed and engaged citizens. Jackie Viana of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Doug Oswald of Marion County Public Schools in Florida have been recognized in past years. Click [here](#) for more information.



St. Lucie County Project Citizen Showcase

Lincoln Park Academy won the St. Lucie County Project Citizen Showcase with their project, "Light It Up!" Oak Hammock K-8 placed second with their project, "For the Sake of Our Health." Congratulations to the teams that participated!



Law Day 2015: Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law

No one, no matter how powerful is above the law. This year Law Day celebrates Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law. In the eight centuries that have elapsed since the Magna Carta was sealed in 1215, it has taken root as an international symbol of the rule of law and as an inspiration for many basic rights Americans hold dear today, including due process, habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the right to travel. The American Bar Association has released a Law Day Guide to help you prepare for classroom activities or plan local programs. Click [here](#) to download the guide.



Upcoming Events

- March 5-7: Florida High School Mock Trial State Finals Competition
- March 16: Moot Court Briefs due
- March 22-26: Justice Teaching Institute
- April 17: Project Citizen Portfolios due
- April 20-24: Project Citizen Capitol Showcase
- May 1: Law Day
- May 4-5: Florida High School Moot Court State Finals

	<p>May 15: Project Citizen Oral Hearings and Portfolio Showcase Finals Click here to see a full calendar of events.</p>
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Questions or comments? Visit our website at <http://www.flrea.org> or email us at staff@flrea.org.

The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc.
2930 Kerry Forest Parkway
Suite 202
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Phone: (850) 386-8223 - Fax: (850) 386-8292