

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015



Honoring Ed Lange

It is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to a dear friend and law related education legend in Florida. Ed Lange of Fletcher High School in Jacksonville passed away suddenly on Wednesday, June 10th at his home in Jacksonville. Ed had retired from Fletcher High School the previous Friday and he had been honored for his work and his career on Saturday evening. Ed taught at Fletcher since the mid-80's and by 1989 had developed his own law curriculum and built a courtroom on campus for his students. Over 6500 students participated in Ed's law classes over the years. Over 150 of Ed's students have graduated from law school. Ed was an extraordinary law teacher and had participated in our high school mock trial program since the very first state competition in 1991. He always placed in the top ten and frequently in the top five. Fletcher High School won the state championship twice. Ed Lange was an incredible law teacher and mock trial coach, but his students will tell you that he was also their friend and mentor.

Click [here](#) to continue reading.



2015 Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. Attorney and Judge of the Year Awards

Each year at The Florida Bar Annual Convention, FLREA has the opportunity to thank distinguished volunteers who contribute their valuable time to programs hosted by our office. On Thursday, June 25th at the 2015 Judicial Luncheon, FLREA was honored to recognize Attorney of the Year Tenesia Connelly Hall and Judge of the Year Terry Lewis for their outstanding service and contributions to law-related education initiatives. FLREA is appreciative of the tremendous support from Florida's legal community. If you wish to nominate someone for this recognition for the 2015-2016 school year, please send those nominations to staff@flrea.org.



Justice Teaching Awards

In addition to the FLREA Attorney and Judge of the Year Awards, the Justice Teaching Initiative of Florida Supreme Court Justice Fred Lewis identifies a Judge of the Year, a Volunteer of the Year, and a Teacher of the Year. This year, Judge John Phillips and LRE Committee Chair Sheri Hazeltine were recognized for their outstanding Justice Teaching volunteer efforts. The recognition of Justice Teaching Teacher of the Year was awarded to Ed Lange. Ed was informed that he was to receive this prestigious recognition prior to his passing and was truly honored beyond words to be identified as the recipient of this award. Attorney Amber Rumancik and members of the 2014 Mock Trial Championship team accepted the award in his memory.



2015 Florida Bar Convention

FLREA was thrilled to be an active participant in the 2015 Annual Florida Bar Convention held on June 25-27 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. Executive Director Annette Boyd Pitts joined attorney Richard Levenstein and Judge Michelle Sisco to present the Benchmarks program, a program of the Constitutional Judiciary Committee.



Summer 2015 Trainings

FLREA has kicked off a busy summer of civics trainings and conference presentations taking place throughout the state and nationally! Trainings for the summer include teacher programs in the following counties: Pinellas, Osceola, Pasco, and an iCivics training in Miami. Additionally, FLREA Executive Director Annette Boyd Pitts will be presenting at the County Court Judges Conference, the American Judges Association Conference, and the Conference of Chief Justices. For additional information, contact staff@flrea.org.



2015-2016 Program Dates

They're here! Dates for the 2015-2016 academic competitions hosted by The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc.:

- January 15, 2016: We the People High School State Finals*
- February 2016: Circuit Mock Trial Competitions
- February 7-11, 2016: Justice Teaching Institute
- February 19, 2016: Project Citizen Portfolio Due Date (due to early legislative session)
- February 24, 2016: Project Citizen State Showcase*
- March 17-19, 2016: Florida High School Mock Trial State Finals
- March 2015: Moot Court Briefs Due
- May 2-3, 2016: Moot Court State Finals
- May 6, 2016: Middle School Mock Trial Video Contest Submission Due Date
- Date TBD: Project Citizen State Finals*

* Dates are subject to change pending confirmation of space.



United States Senate Youth Program

Looking for a once in a lifetime experience? The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) provides just that! Open to rising juniors and seniors in high school, the top two USSYP applicants receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a week-long trip to Washington D.C. alongside other student leaders from throughout the United States. These students interact with government officials including their Senators, Supreme Court Justices, and the President of the United States. The application can be found [here](#).



Justice Teaching Institute Application

The application for the 2016 Justice Teaching Institute has been posted! The Justice Teaching Institute (JTI) provides innovative hands-on training to 20 to 25 secondary teachers in Florida each year. The program is recognized internationally as a model in law-related civic education. Graduates receive the honor of becoming Fellows of the Justice Teaching Institute. For the opportunity to attend this unparalleled professional development opportunity, click [here](#) for more information and submit your completed application by December 1, 2015.

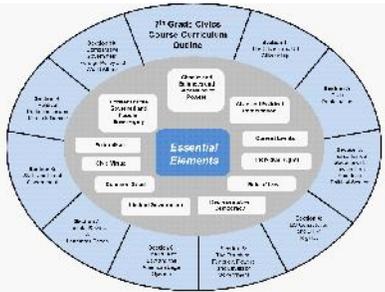
February 7-11, 2016
A Florida civics training course for secondary public and private school teachers
 Sponsored by
 The Supreme Court of Florida

85% of Florida citizens surveyed said that none or one of the branches of government
 Only 34% of those surveyed claimed to be at least generally familiar with Florida's court system
 Nearly 45% of the survey respondents viewed their information about Florida courts and government

For more information on the results of a recent public opinion research project completed by the Florida Judicial Commission Council of the Florida Supreme Court see: The Court (retrieved by requesting the Public Opinion Institute for secondary public and private school teachers. The 2015 survey was conducted from February 7-11, 2016 at the Supreme Court Building in Tallahassee.

This Institute offers an unique opportunity for the teaching of the judicial branch of government. Through workshops with Supreme Court Justices and other judges providing practical, experiential, and civic education to the citizens. The Institute will explore the concepts of public law, legal rights, and civics education and strategies for teaching students and other education about the judicial branch, organization, and operations of the Florida state system. Participants will understand judicial processes and observe the presentation of the actual case.

Application Deadline: December 1, 2015



Civics Curriculum Wheel

Jump start your 2016-2016 civics classes by registering for FLREA’s FREE civics curriculum wheel! 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. Click [here](#) to register for the civics curriculum wheel.



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. FLREA is always happy to support school districts throughout the State of Florida through online professional development. To schedule a webinar in your school district, please contact staff@flrea.org.



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.



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.



2015 American Bar Association LRE Conference

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.”



Fundraising Campaign: Show Your Love!

The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. is seeking donations to help sustain our experiential nonpartisan civics and law related education programs as part of our annual fundraising campaign. As stated by Annette Boyd Pitts, founding Executive Directors, “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, constitutional education seminars, 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!

	<p>Click here to view the contribution form or go to www.flrea.org and click on the “Donate” button on the right-side menu.</p>
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Questions or comments? Visit our website at <http://www.flrea.org> or email us at staff@flrea.org.

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