



**CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION CHICAGO**

*Educating for Democracy*

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<http://www.crfc.org/summit2002.html>

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## **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, POLICYMAKERS BALANCE SAFETY AND FREEDOM FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 11**

**April 23, 2002-Chicago, Illinois**— Do three-year-olds and grandmothers really need to be searched and frisked at our nation's airports, or just people who fit a more likely profile for terrorism? To what extent should the government control what the media reports about the war at home and in Afghanistan? Are the President's military tribunals consistent with our system of justice?

Since December, more than 1,300 students from 22 Illinois high schools have been wrestling with these issues, and on April 30 some 175 student delegates will share what they've been thinking with policymakers at the 2002 Illinois Youth Summit.

Begun in 1995 by the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC), the Summit focuses on issues of violence that students select themselves for study and action. The event will be hosted by the U.S. District Court in Chicago at the Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor, from 8:30 AM to 2:15 PM.

This year, students will address three issues which they identified that focus on the balance of civil liberties and national safety in the wake of the September 11 attacks: profiling people of Arab and Muslim heritage; sanctioning media that publish information from people and organizations identified as terrorist; and using secret military courts for suspects charged with terrorist acts.

“The need for tighter security in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has caused America to reexamine our police procedures and laws, but we cannot forget our nation's high standards for civil liberties,” said U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee and will participate from Washington via video-teleconference on military tribunals. “This summit is an important reminder that civil rights and liberties must be protected, even in time of crisis. I hope today's event broadens awareness among Chicago's youth and opens a dialogue on the importance of the Bill of Rights in post-Sept. 11 America.”

Maggie Hickey, State Director for U.S. Senator Fitzgerald said, “It impresses me how well prepared and knowledgeable the students participating in the Illinois Youth Summit are. It is as much of an enjoyable experience for the educators as it is for the students. Everyone walks away from the program with new insights and a refreshed enthusiasm for tackling the problems we face every day.”

Other policymakers scheduled to participate from Washington include U.S. Representative Judy Biggert; Deputy Assistant Attorney General Patrick Philbin in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel; and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Richard McGraw. Policymakers meeting with students in Chicago include John McGinnis of the Northwestern University Law, Mindy Trossman from the Medill School of Journalism, Barry Kellman from DePaul University College of Law, and Dean Polales from the Office of U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald.

In preparation for the Summit, students in U.S. government, U.S. history and law classes from Chicago, the metropolitan area, and downstate Peoria have analyzed policies, conducted a survey of more than 3,000 students statewide, and developed service projects addressing these issues. Results of their efforts will be presented at the culminating “summit” on April 30.

“Youth are interested,” said Susan Echeverria, a student at Chicago's Mather High School. “We want to make a difference. Just give us a chance, and you'll see.”

CRFC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that has helped schools foster critical thinking skills and responsible actions in students since 1974. In addition to the Youth Summit, CRFC also conducts other law-related educational programs for elementary and secondary students in Illinois and across the nation.

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