



Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

*Engaging Youth in Democracy*

## EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

A Constitutional Issues and Public Policy Program for Illinois High School Students

Summer Institute for Law,  
Government, and  
U.S. History Teachers

Illinois Supreme Court Building  
Chicago, Illinois

August 7, 2007  
8:30 AM—3:30 PM



### Included:

- ◆ Program Overview
- ◆ Institute Highlights
- ◆ Program Components
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*Equal Justice Under Law is a program of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago and is supported in part by a grant from Youth for Justice, the national law-related education program of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the US Department of Justice, as well as a grant from Illinois LEARN and the Illinois Bar Foundation. Thank you to the Illinois Supreme Court. for hosting the institute.*

## Equal Justice Under Law Program Overview

*Equal Justice Under Law* brings together high school students with legal scholars and policymakers to enhance their understanding of a specific U.S. Supreme Court case and a related public policy question relevant for Illinois. In participating law, government and U.S. history classes, students examine the case facts, review arguments they find persuasive, and analyze the related Illinois law or public policy question using CRFC developed curriculum materials. Students in the program have explored such issues as drug testing for students in extracurricular activities, the juvenile death penalty, and physician-assisted suicide. *Equal Justice Under Law* occurs during the fall semester.

## Institute Highlights

- Examine the selected U.S. Supreme Court case facts, issue, arguments, and opinion(s) with legal scholars and law professors.
- Discuss a relevant Illinois law or public policy related to the decision rendered in the selected Supreme Court case with policy experts.
- Receive case materials, policy analysis tools, and interactive strategies to address the U.S. Supreme Court case and Illinois public policy featured in the 2007 *Equal Justice Under Law* program.
- Interact with veteran EJUL teachers who will share helpful tips and teaching ideas for preparing classes to participate in the 2007 *Equal Justice Under Law* conference.

*“My students developed an appreciation for the difficulty in creating public policy when there are rational reasons on multiple sides of the issue.”*

*~ Melanie Tevis, Normal West High School,  
Bloomington, IL*

## Equal Justice Under Law 2007 Program Components

### Summer Institute (August 7, 2007)

Participating teachers examine a selected U.S. Supreme Court case with legal experts and a related public policy question with policymakers.

### Student Training / Concurrent Teacher Workshop (October/November)

Selected students from participating classes receive training for their role as discussion facilitator and coordinator at one of the parallel student-led conferences held in Springfield and Chicago. Teachers attend a concurrent workshop. Both students and teachers gain additional insights into the case/public policy from an outside resource person.

### Class Preparation (November/December)

Students examine the selected U.S. Supreme Court case, review the facts and constitutional issue, consider the arguments they find persuasive, and analyze the public policy question using CRFC developed curriculum materials. Students conduct a Public Policy Poll at their school. Results are posted on the CRFC website.

### 2007 Equal Justice Under Law Conference (November/December)

Students participate in parallel *Equal Justice Under Law* conferences in Springfield and Chicago where they deliberate the constitutional issue as “justices” and discuss the related policy questions as “legislators” with their peers, legal experts, and policymakers. Following the conference, students offer their perspectives in op-ed pieces, letters to legislators, and/or position papers.



### Teacher Debrief Meetings (December/January)

Participating teachers in the Chicago area and downstate meet in separate meetings to debrief the conference and overall program. Case materials and curriculum lessons are posted on CRFC website.

## Participants

Open to high school teachers of law, government, and U.S. history at accredited public and private high schools in Illinois. Space is limited to 20 participants.

## Applicant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years at current school \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Major \_\_\_\_\_

I have been teaching [check one]

\_\_\_\_\_ less than 5 years    \_\_\_\_\_ 6-10 years    \_\_\_\_\_ 11-25 years    \_\_\_\_\_ More than 25 years

Which of your classes will you most likely use the selected U.S. Supreme Court case and a related public policy materials from the Summer Institute?

Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Applicant Essay

Include a short essay (250 words or less) on a separate sheet, describe how you currently use U.S. Supreme Court cases and public policy in your law, government and/or U.S. history courses. Include the essay with your application.

## Application Procedure

- For more information, contact Kathy Bell at [bell@crfc.org](mailto:bell@crfc.org) or call 312.663.9157x203.
- Complete the Applicant Information and Applicant Essay.
- Include Registration Fee of \$100 payable to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago.
- Return the Application and Applicant Essay with payment **not later than May 15, 2007** to:

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago  
407 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1119

*All applications must be complete, with payment, in order to be considered. All applicants will be notified regarding acceptance by June 1, 2007. Registration fees will be refunded to applicants who are not accepted for the institute. All fees for accepted applicants are nonrefundable. Equal Justice Under Law is a program of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. CRFC thanks the Illinois Supreme Court for hosting this institute.*



Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago  
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