



Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

Equal Justice Under Law

2008: A Ban on Handguns: Constitutional? Good Public Policy?

What is Equal Justice Under Law?

Equal Justice Under Law is a fall semester high school program designed to increase student understanding of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision and related public policy questions. Students examine case facts, review the constitutional issue, consider the arguments they find persuasive, and analyze a related law or public policy using CRFC developed curriculum materials. The program culminates in a student conference where delegates deliberate the constitutional issue as “justices” and discuss the related policy questions as “legislators” with their peers, legal experts, and policymakers. Additional information is at <http://www.crfc.org/programs/eqljust.php>.



What is the focus for this year's program?

Is the right to keep and bear arms a right of individuals or a collective right that applies only to state-regulated militias? *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) addressed the issue of a handgun ban in Washington, DC.

What are expectations for participating schools?

- Send two students to an orientation on **October 22** (9:30-1:30) at the University of Illinois-Springfield to receive information about the case and training as discussion facilitators and coordinators for the student conference
- Send a teacher to an orientation workshop on October 22 concurrent with the student workshop
- Devote two-three class periods to *District of Columbia v. Heller*, reviewing the facts and constitutional issue, considering the arguments, and analyzing the public policy question using CRFC developed materials
- Conduct a student Public Policy Poll with questions relating to the focus issue
- Release student delegates and a teacher to attend the Equal Justice Under Law conference on **November 10** (9:30-1:30) at the University of Illinois-Springfield

What are benefits for students and teachers?

- Case materials, policy analysis tools, and interactive strategies and classroom lessons
- Opportunities to work with peers from different schools on current policy questions
- Interactions with public officials, legal experts, and other policymakers who shape law and public policy

Registration Information

- Teachers of Law, Government, American Problems, Humanities, or U.S. History are encouraged to apply. The maximum number of student conference delegates attending per school will be determined following registration—anticipated 10 per school.
- Complete and return the registration form to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago along with the \$100 registration fee by **October 3, 2008**. Late registrations will be considered on a space-available basis.



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2008 Equal Justice Under Law

Downstate Application Form

Name of Teacher _____

School _____

School address _____

City _____ Zip _____

School phone _____ School fax _____

Teacher email _____

Course(s) in which you will use the Equal Justice Under Law curriculum

Grade Level(s) _____ Approximate # of students who will benefit from the curriculum _____

Registration

A fee of **\$100** per school must accompany this form and is non-refundable. Make checks payable to Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. **Please mail not later than October 3, 2008 to:**

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
407 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60605-1119
Fax: (312)663-4321

Questions?

Contact Dee Runaas at 312/663-9057 x 208 or runaas@crfc.org.

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