

“Listening to high school students debating public policy issues with adults – especially such a controversial subject like gun control – was wonderful to experience.”

Christina Conlin,
McDonald's Corporation



“Students weighed the right to own a gun against what is best for the public's safety – they participated in an animated yet respectful conversation that many adults are not able to do.”

Dennis Rendleman
American Bar Association
Center for Professional Responsibility

Equal Justice Under Law is a program of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago.

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Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

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EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW



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



Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
Engaging Youth in Democracy

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. CRFC conducts parallel conferences in Chicago and Springfield where students come together to deliberate the constitutional issue and discuss policy applications with peers from a variety of school settings. 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 www.crfc.org/programs/eqljust.php.

WHAT IS THE FOCUS FOR THIS YEAR’S PROGRAM?

Does the Fourth Amendment prohibit public school officials from conducting a search beneath the clothing of a student suspected of violating school policy by possessing and distributing a prescription drug?

Safford v. Redding (2008) addressed the issue of a student strip search of a middle school student suspected of hiding ibuprofen in her clothes.

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 by the total number of registrants—anticipated 10 per school.

Complete and return the registration form to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago along with the **\$150** registration fee by **October 1, 2009**. Late registrations will be considered on a space-available basis.

WHAT ARE EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS?

- Send two students to an orientation on *either* **October 15** (University of Illinois – Springfield) or **November 20** (Dirksen Federal Building – Chicago) from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM 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 *either* **October 15** or **November 20** concurrent with the student workshop
- Devote two to three class periods to *Safford Unified School District #1 v. Redding*, 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 *either* the Equal Justice Under Law conference on **November 4** (University of Illinois – Springfield) or **December 11** (Dirksen Federal Building – Chicago) from 8:30 AM -1:30 PM

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

QUESTIONS?

Contact Dee Runaas at **312.663.9057 x208** or runaas@crfc.org.

2009 EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW APPLICATION FORM

I plan on participating in:

Springfield Chicago [Please check one]

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 **\$150** per school must accompany this form and is **non-refundable**. Make checks payable to Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. **Please mail not later than October 1, 2009 to:**

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
407 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1700
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Fax: 312.663.4321