

Kapnick Challenge to Support

The Edward J. Lewis II LAWYERS IN THE CLASSROOM Program



*We're more than
half-way there!*



Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
Engaging Youth in Democracy

The Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom Program

Public schools were created in America with the primary purpose of preparing students to participate constructively in our democracy. With everything that schools must do in today's testing climate, it is difficult for educators to find the time and the resources to focus on what they were *created* to do.

Developed and coordinated by the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC), the **Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom** program partners attorneys with elementary teachers and their students to address the ever-growing need of schools to prepare students to live in our democracy.



CRFC trains attorneys to lead interactive lessons; provides attorneys with CRFC teaching materials; partners attorneys with schools; and coaches the attorney/teacher team. CRFC also trains the teachers and creates additional lessons and assessments appropriate to each grade level. Lawyers in the Classroom provides multiple, authentic opportunities for students to learn about their rights and responsibilities under the law.

A Year of Growth and Achievement

In 2007-2008 The Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom Program placed over 500 attorneys in 80 Chicago Area Schools. Lawyers in the Classroom program involved over 7,500 students in grades 2 to 8 and 225 teachers.

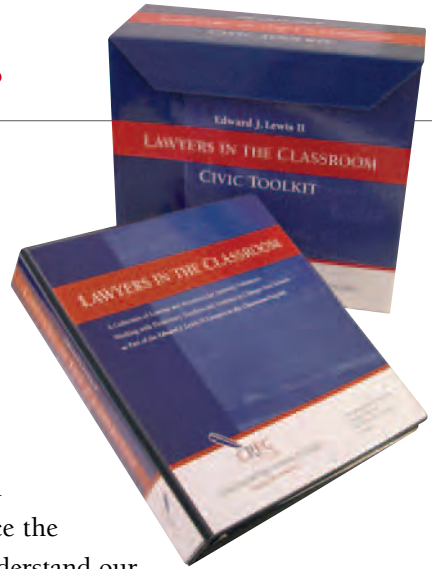


The Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom Program continues to grow because educators believe—and research confirms—that it teaches students about their rights and responsibilities under the law, helps increase student scores on standardized tests, and promotes positive student behaviors.

New Program Features

Classroom Curriculum

The new curriculum for attorneys and teachers contains interactive lessons for students in grades 2-8 including grade-appropriate case studies and mock trials.



Civic Toolkit

All teachers also receive civic toolkits with additional lessons and resources to enhance the curriculum to help their students better understand our legal system as well as the role of citizens in our democracy. Supplementary lessons are added to the toolkits as appropriate.

Reading Nights

Attorney volunteers are piloting a new program at selected Lawyers in the Classroom schools. Attorneys read stories with civic themes and hold discussions with primary students and their parents as an after school activity. The school's library also receives copies of the books and all students attending get bookmarks.

Expansion Downstate

Every eighth grade class in the Champaign Public Schools is now partnered with a team of local attorneys. Almost 800 students and their teachers at all three Champaign public middle schools are working with over two dozen local attorney volunteers in this exciting test expansion of the program.

Funding for these new initiatives was graciously provided by the following sponsors of the Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom Program:

- GE Foundation (Curriculum and Toolkit)
- Huron Consulting Group (Reading Nights)
- Illinois LEARN/Illinois State Bar Association (Expansion to Champaign)

The Kapnick Challenge: More Than Half-Way There

In Fall 2007, Scott and Kathleen Kapnick, close friends of Edward, offered CRFC a challenge of \$500,000 to support the Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom program. Scott and Kathleen pledged a \$250,000, dollar-for-dollar pledge, and their foundation pledged an additional \$250,000 challenge for a \$500,000 match. CRFC accepted the challenge to raise \$750,000 in contributions and pledges before October 2009.



In only a year, supporters of the Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom program were more than half-way toward reaching this goal. By October 2008, CRFC had raised \$250,000 in contributions to fulfill the first \$250,000 challenge. CRFC also has



received over \$200,000 in contributions and pledges toward the second \$500,000 challenge.

With your help, CRFC can raise the outstanding balance of \$300,000 to meet Scott and Kathleen Kapnick's challenge and fulfill Edward's dream of sustaining the Lawyers in the Classroom for future generations of students and double the number of students benefiting from Edward J. Lewis Lawyers in the Classroom Program.

Help us make a difference today.

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About Edward J. Lewis II



CRFC's Lawyers in the Classroom program is named after former CRFC Board member Edward J. Lewis II. Edward was a brilliant, charismatic, and caring young partner at Jenner & Block LLP who recruited over 100 volunteer attorneys for CRFC's Lawyers in the Classroom program and conducted workshops for teachers at CRFC conferences.

Edward's participation in Lawyers in the Classroom was legendary. For several years he partnered with teachers and students at Pickard Elementary School in Chicago, which he visited regularly during the school session. He recruited and trained other attorney volunteers to emulate his example and partner with teachers in the Chicago Public Schools through CRFC. Edward was a tireless advocate for the children themselves, bringing resources and energy to their lessons and dreams.

Edward was diagnosed with leukemia and died in 1997 at just 37 years of age. Edward's dream was to have students from all over the city participate in the CRFC Lawyers in the Classroom program. Today, CRFC continues to work to fulfill Edward's dream.

About the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) works with elementary and secondary schools to develop critical thinking skills, civic participation, and commitment to the rule of law among young people. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, CRFC is a national leader in the design and implementation of quality law-related education (LRE) programs for local, national, and international projects. CRFC was founded in 1974 as part of the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles and became an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 1990.



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Engaging Youth in Democracy

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