

BACK STORY

NEVADA LAW-RELATED EDUCATION GETS COMPETITIVE

BY MELINDA CATREN, NEVADA LAWYER STAFF

Law-Related Education (LRE) is in full swing in Nevada. In December, “We the People” regional finals took place at Green Valley High School in Henderson and Truckee Meadow Community College in Reno. The winning schools were: Bishop Gorman High School, Las Vegas; College of Southern Nevada High School West, Las Vegas; and Incline Village High School, Incline Village. The competition’s wild card schools are: Canyon Springs High School, Las Vegas; and Reed High School, Sparks.

As of this writing “We the People” participants are gearing up for the state finals, which take place on February 6 in Carson City. The winning school will go on to compete in the national finals in Washington, D.C., April 24 through April 26.

Presently, only high school students practice their law-related education skills in competition, but students at Saville Middle School are using the “We the People” program to enhance their studies. Interest in the program is growing, and it is hoped that more Nevada middle schools will chose to participate in the future.



▲ The wild card team from Canyon Springs High School is one of several competing in the 2010 state finals.



▲ Judge Philip Pro addresses participants at Green Valley High School prior to the regional competition.



▲ Students from Saville Middle School demonstrate what they have learned through the “We the People” Program; at this point, only high school students participate in competition.



▲ Volunteer attorneys and judges get ready to judge the “We the People” southern Nevada regional district finals at Green Valley High School.

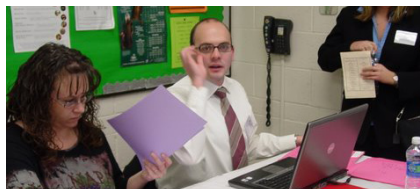
MOCK TRIAL

“We the People” is not the only LRE game in town. Nevada students are also currently preparing cases for mock trial competition... and when they go to trial, you can help! These young people are in need of adult volunteers. Volunteers will act as mock trial judges and score student performances. Three-member panels will be assigned to each trial and another volunteer will preside over the courtroom. Volunteers are needed for Friday, March 12 and Saturday, March 13.

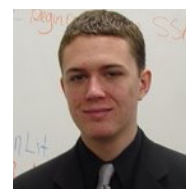
PROJECT CITIZEN

Finally, LRE program Project Citizen is gearing up for a big event this spring. A companion project to “We the People”, Project Citizen targets middle, secondary and post-secondary students along with youth organizations and adult groups, with the goal of promoting competent and responsible participation in both local and state government. It does this by helping participants monitor and influence public policies through the proper channels. Participants gain a deeper respect for and understanding of the principles and values of democracy, learn tolerance and gain a feeling of greater political empowerment. The Project Citizen Showcase will take place on April 30 and May 1 at the Pearson Community Center, 1625 W. Carey Ave., North Las Vegas.

For more information on We the People, Project Citizen or the Mock Trial program, or to volunteer, please contact LRE Coordinator Kathleen Dickinson at kathleend@nvbar.org. ■



▲ State bar staffer Cathi Britz and Congressional District 3 Coordinator Trent Harper help compile the competitors' scores.



◀ “We the People” alum Tyler Kedziorski now recruits other alumni for future “We the People” events.