

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT
GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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JUDGES IN THE CLASSROOM

Since 1993 this program has been an exciting education opportunity for exceptional program students. These twelve judges have enthusiastically agreed to offer their programs again this year.

Please read the program descriptions and decide which judge's program(s) would best fit your curriculum and grade level needs. Then contact Karen Nickerson at the United States District Court to schedule a "Judges in the Classroom" program. Karen Nickerson's Telephone Number: 619-446-3881 -or- E-Mail: Karen_Nickerson@casd.uscourts.gov

All participating judges are flexible with their various presentations. Teachers who have special requests for particular topics should alert the judge when scheduling the visit.

The San Diego City Schools Gifted and Talented Education Department is extremely proud to be associated with this excellent academic program.

We would like to express our gratitude to the originator of "Judges in the Classroom," the Honorable David R. Thompson, for this most excellent program.

Judge Papas, our present liaison for the program, says:

Those judges who participate in this program strive to uphold and perpetuate the tradition established and articulated by the Honorable David R. Thompson by continuing, "... to help and encourage students to embrace the concepts of justice and responsibility, to clarify for them the roles of the individual within a free society, to familiarize the students with career opportunities within the legal system, and to convey the message that students who work hard in school will achieve success.

"The judicial participants believe that we can provide a positive influence, even in a small way, that leads to the success of students in our schools, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that our entire community will reap benefits in the future and our efforts have been worthwhile."

THE HONORABLE LEO S. PAPAS

United States Magistrate Judge

TITLE

Children at Risk – The Judicial System in Action

DESCRIPTION

Judge Papas' experience with judicial education has revealed that children in elementary school between the ages of 8 and 11 (4th to 6th grades) are best served by this presentation, although there is no fixed age range. Judge Papas also considers at least two classroom hours to be the minimum amount of time necessary to adequately develop rapport with the students and to ensure they have a reasonable understanding of the format and proceedings.

Judge Papas encourages questions throughout the presentation as well as participation and discussion on any topic related to the judicial system. Teachers are encouraged to have the students prepare questions for Judge Papas in advance of the presentation. He also talks with the students about types of trials, e.g., civil versus criminal and the differences among juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony proceedings. The most important part of the presentation is the opportunity for the students to act as jurors to decide the guilt or innocence of two middle school students accused of possession of marijuana with the intent to sell. The trial is presented in the form of an interactive video with the actors in the video all being middle school age.

The learning objectives of the program include: (1) the role and importance of jurors in the judicial system, e.g., the students being sworn in and acting as jurors for the videotaped trial (including discussion points during the video presentation); (2) what a trial is all about, including terms, definitions, and concepts; (3) the role of the judge in the judicial system; (4) jury deliberations, including, if time permits, selection of a presiding juror, discussion/debate, and vote on guilt or innocence; and (5) post-verdict discussion, including alternatives such as appeal. Time permitting, the teacher is welcome to take pictures of the students with the judge and/or while they try on the judge's robe.

Depending on school policy, the classroom situation, and available funds, Judge Papas also extends an invitation to the class to visit his courtroom. The teacher should talk with the judge or his staff in advance of the presentation about visiting the courthouse. During the courthouse visit, Judge Papas will have representatives of the courthouse staff talk to the students about their backgrounds and roles in the judicial process (like a miniature "career day"). If available, a tour of the U.S. Marshal's office and other law enforcement agencies can be arranged. Judge Papas has found that those students able to make the follow-up visit to Federal Court come away with the best overall understanding of the judicial system.

ELIGIBILITY

Elementary, 4th through 6th

THE HONORABLE IRMA E. GONZALEZ

Chief, United States District Judge

TITLE

Children at Risk – The Judicial System in Action

DESCRIPTION

Judge Gonzalez prefers to make her presentation to children in 4th through 6th grades. Judge Gonzalez also considers at least one and one-half hours the amount of time necessary to adequately make her presentation and to ensure the children have a reasonable understanding of the format and proceedings.

Judge Gonzalez encourages questions throughout the presentation and encourages discussion on any topic related to the judicial system. Teachers are invited to have the students prepare questions for Judge Gonzalez in advance of the presentation. She also talks with the students about types of trials, e.g., civil versus criminal and the differences among juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony proceedings. The most important part of the presentation is the opportunity for the students to act as jurors to decide the guilt or innocence of two middle school students accused of possession of marijuana with the intent to sell. The trial is presented in the form of an interactive video with the actors in the video all being middle school age.

The learning objectives of the program include: (1) the role and importance of jurors in the judicial system, e.g., the students being sworn in and acting as jurors for the videotaped trial (including discussion points during the video presentation); (2) what a trial is all about, including terms, definitions, and concepts; (3) the role of the judge in the judicial system; (4) jury deliberations, including if time permits, selection of a presiding juror, discussion/debate, and vote on guilt or innocence; and (5) post-verdict discussion, including alternatives such as appeal.

Depending on school policy, the classroom situation, and available funds, Judge Gonzalez also extends an invitation to the class to visit her courtroom. The teacher should talk with the judge or her staff in advance of the presentation about visiting the courthouse.

ELIGIBILITY

Elementary 4th through 6th

THE HONORABLE JEFFREY T. MILLER

United States District Judge

TITLE

Federal Jurisdiction and Judging

DESCRIPTION

Judge Miller will discuss with high school students the basics of federal jurisdiction and judging with emphasis on the following subjects:

1. The basic areas of jurisdiction for U. S. District Courts and how jurisdiction of a United States District Court differs from that of state, superior, and municipal courts.
2. How the basic principles of judging may be applied to everyday issues and challenges encountered by high school students.

ELIGIBILITY

High School, 9th through 10th; one or two classes

THE HONORABLE BARBARA MAJOR

United States Magistrate Judge

TITLE

Children at Risk – The Judicial System in Action

DESCRIPTION

Judge Major's experience with judicial education has revealed that children in elementary school between the ages of 8 and 11 (4th to 6th grades) are best served by this presentation, although there is no fixed age range. Judge Major also considers at least two classroom hours to be the minimum amount of time necessary to adequately develop rapport with the students and to ensure they have a reasonable understanding of the format and proceedings.

Judge Major encourages questions throughout the presentation as well as participation and discussion on any topic related to the judicial system. Teachers are encouraged to have the students prepare questions for Judge Major in advance of the presentation. She also talks with the students about types of trials, e.g., civil versus criminal and the differences among juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony proceedings. The most important part of the presentation is the opportunity for the students to act as jurors to decide the guilt or innocence of two middle school students accused of possession of marijuana with the intent to sell. The trial is presented in the form of an interactive video with the actors in the video all being middle school age.

The learning objectives of the program include: (1) the role and importance of jurors in the judicial system, e.g., the students being sworn in and acting as jurors for the videotaped trial (including discussion points during the video presentation); (2) what a trial is all about, including terms, definitions, and concepts; (3) the role of the judge in the judicial system; (4) jury deliberations, including, if time permits, selection of a presiding juror, discussion/debate, and vote on guilt or innocence; and (5) post-verdict discussion, including alternatives such as appeal. Time permitting, the teacher is welcome to take pictures of the students with the judge and/or while they try on the judge's robe.

ELIGIBILITY

Elementary, 4th through 6th

THE HONORABLE RUDI M. BREWSTER

United States District Judge

TITLE

Children at Risk – The Judicial System in Action

DESCRIPTION

Judge Brewster prefers to make his presentation to children in 4th through 6th grades. Judge Brewster also considers at least two hours to be the amount of time necessary to adequately make his presentation and to ensure they have a reasonable understanding of the format and proceedings.

Judge Brewster encourages questions throughout the presentation as well as participation and discussion on any topic related to the judicial system. Teachers are encouraged to have the students prepare questions for Judge Brewster in advance of the presentation. He also talks with the students about types of trials, e.g., civil versus criminal and the differences among juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony proceedings. The most important part of the presentation is the opportunity for the students to act as jurors to decide the guilt or innocence of two middle school students accused of possession of marijuana with the intent to sell. The trial is presented in the form of an interactive video with the actors in the video all being middle school age.

The learning objectives of the program include: (1) the role and importance of jurors in the judicial system, e.g., the students being sworn in and acting as jurors for the videotaped trial (including discussion points during the video presentation); (2) what a trial is all about, including terms, definitions, and concepts; (3) the role of the judge in the judicial system; (4) jury deliberations, including, if time permits, selection of a presiding juror, discussion/debate, and vote on guilt or innocence; and (5) post-verdict discussion, including alternatives such as appeal. Time permitting, the teacher is welcome to take pictures of the students with the judge and/or while they try on the judge's robe.

Depending on school policy, the classroom situation, and available funds, Judge Brewster also extends an invitation to the class to visit his courtroom. The teacher should talk with the judge or his staff in advance of the presentation about visiting the courthouse. During the courthouse visit, Judge Brewster will have students observe courtroom proceedings, will meet with the students in chambers, may be able to have representatives of the courthouse staff talk to the students about their backgrounds and roles in the judicial process (like a miniature "career day"). If available, a tour of the U.S. Marshal's office and other law enforcement agencies can be arranged.

ELIGIBILITY

Elementary, 4th through 6th

THE HONORABLE JOHN J. HARGROVE (Ret.)

Retired United States Bankruptcy Judge

TITLE

Credit Abuse Resistance Education (C.A.R.E.) Program

DESCRIPTION

Judge Hargrove or a bankruptcy attorney gives a presentation on the dangers of credit card debt.

Students learn about the true costs of credit, distinguishing between “wants” and “needs,” budgeting, consequences of financial problems (not qualifying for loans and being turned down for jobs, for example), and other related issues.

The C.A.R.E. program involves three critical components. First, the students watch a 12 minute video produced by Channel One News, entitled “Balancing Act,” which highlights just how easy it is for young people to quickly get into serious financial trouble by misusing credit cards. Next, the judge reinforces the ideas presented in the video with a PowerPoint presentation and interactive discussion with the students on their credit experiences. Students are warned of the pitfalls of mismanaging credit and how to stay afloat financially. During the presentation, students receive a packet in informational materials to share with their parents and begin planning their financial security. The students and teachers are encouraged to check out the C.A.R.E. Program Website.

CARE Program Website: <http://www.casb.uscourts.gov/html/CARE/index.htm>

ELIGIBILITY

High schools: senior class

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM MCCURINE

United States Magistrate Judge

TITLE

Children at Risk – The Judicial System in Action

DESCRIPTION

Judge McCurine experience with judicial education has revealed that children in elementary school between the ages of 8 and 11 (4th to 6th grades) are best served by this presentation, although there is no fixed age range. Judge McCurine also considers at least two classroom hours to be the minimum amount of time necessary to adequately develop rapport with the students and to ensure they have a reasonable understanding of the format and proceedings.

Judge McCurine encourages questions throughout the presentation as well as participation and discussion on any topic related to the judicial system. Teachers are encouraged to have the students prepare questions for Judge McCurine in advance of the presentation. He also talks with the students about types of trials, e.g., civil versus criminal and the differences among juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony proceedings. The most important part of the presentation is the opportunity for the students to act as jurors to decide the guilt or innocence of two middle school students accused of possession of marijuana with the intent to sell. The trial is presented in the form of an interactive video with the actors in the video all being middle school age.

The learning objectives of the program include: (1) the role and importance of jurors in the judicial system, e.g., the students being sworn in and acting as jurors for the videotaped trial (including discussion points during the video presentation); (2) what a trial is all about, including terms, definitions, and concepts; (3) the role of the judge in the judicial system; (4) jury deliberations, including, if time permits, selection of a presiding juror, discussion/debate, and vote on guilt or innocence; and (5) post-verdict discussion, including alternatives such as appeal. Time permitting, the teacher is welcome to take pictures of the students with the judge and/or while they try on the judge's robe.

Depending on school policy, the classroom situation, and available funds, Judge McCurine also extends an invitation to the class to visit his courtroom. The teacher should talk with the judge or his staff in advance of the presentation about visiting the courthouse. During the courthouse visit, Judge McCurine will have representatives of the courthouse staff talk to the students about their backgrounds and roles in the judicial process (like a miniature "career day"). If available, a tour of the U.S. Marshal's office and other law enforcement agencies can be arranged. Judge McCurine has found that those students able to make the follow-up visit to Federal Court come away with the best overall understanding of the judicial system.

ELIGIBILITY

Elementary, 4th through 6th

THE HONORABLE NITA L. STORMES

United States Magistrate Judge

TITLE

What Do Judges Really Do?

DESCRIPTION

Judge Stormes talks about what judges really do on a daily basis. She describes how her chambers operate and explains the functions of her law clerks and courtroom deputy. She describes the kind of criminal and civil cases that come through the federal system. On the criminal side, she discusses her role in preliminary criminal proceedings and the roles of the prosecutor and defense attorneys. On the civil side, Judge Stormes describes how she functions both as a decision-maker and as a facilitator to resolve disputes. She also discusses the differences between judicial settlement conferences, arbitration, and mediation.

At the teacher's option, to be determined between the teacher and Judge Stormes before the presentation date, the judge will either (1) have the students participate in a bail determination for a hypothetical bank robber, or (2) have students participate in a hypothetical settlement conference where the dispute involves an issue of interest to the students.

ELIGIBILITY

Middle schools: one or two classes

THE HONORABLE M. JAMES LORENZ

United States District Judge

TITLE

Civic Trials

DESCRIPTION

Judge Lorenz looks forward to meeting with students in grade levels 10-12 to discuss and help them become familiar with the court process, develop analytic and communication skills and learn something about civil trials, particularly torts. Depending on arrangements with the teacher, the presentation could be as interactive and comprehensive as an actual mock trial (with some advance preparation by the students) or could involve a more information approach such as a discussion of the nature of civil trials with an analysis of a civil jury trial.

ELIGIBILITY

High schools, 10th through 12th: one or two classes

THE HONORABLE BARRY TED MOSKOWITZ

United States District Judge

TITLE

The Third Branch of Government

DESCRIPTION

Judge Moskowitz speaks to high school students on the nature and structure of the federal courts, the reason for a dual court system, and what each court system handles. He also speaks about job opportunities in the judiciary fields. Judge Moskowitz invites the students to watch proceedings in the courthouse. He also arranges for a courthouse tour if the teacher is interested.

Judge Moskowitz is available and enjoys giving talks on constitutional law to classes for several sessions if this fits in with the teacher's program.

ELIGIBILITY

High school: one or two classes

THE HONORABLE JOHN A. HOUSTON

United States District Judge

TITLE

Our Judicial System

DESCRIPTION

Judge Houston explains the nature and structure of the federal court system and the state court system, the types of cases handled by each system, and the types of state cases that are reviewed by the federal courts. He explains the roles and responsibilities of the participants in civil and criminal trials, including the responsibilities of the judge. He also discusses civic responsibility and the importance of the citizen's participation in trials by serving as jurors.

Judge Houston explains the impact of the First, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments on the quality of life in the United States. He may be available to address specific issue of interest if the teacher contacts the judge in advance of visiting the classroom.

The scope of these discussions can be tailored to elementary, middle, and high school students.

ELIGIBILITY

Elementary, 4th through 6th; Middle; and High School: one or two classes.

THE HONORABLE Peter W. Bowie

Chief, United States Bankruptcy Judge

JUDGE BOWIE OFFERS TWO DISTINCT PROGRAMS.

TITLE

The Role of a Bankruptcy Judge

DESCRIPTION

Judge Bowie visits the classroom and starts his program by asking for a volunteer who calls the class (court) to order. The judge provides a gavel and block.

Judge Bowie enters the classroom wearing a robe and his white judge's wig. He asks the class to state why he is wearing a wig and then explains the origin of the American court system and its relationship to the English system where wigs are still worn to this day. He also explains the origin of the word "bankruptcy."

Judge Bowie then explains how bankruptcy judges are appointed, the judge's role, and the role of his law clerk and other staff in his chambers. Judge Bowie reviews his various activities during a typical day such as reading pleadings and case law, legal research, writing opinions, and making oral rulings in court.

Judge Bowie's 20-minute presentation is followed by a question-and-answer period. The judge will need assistance in disseminating several hand-outs that accompany his talk. He will also need an approximate class count to ensure that each student receives a hand-out. Judge Bowie invites classes to visit the United States Bankruptcy Court and his chambers if the teacher is interested.

ELIGIBILITY

Fourth grade through Middle School: One or Two Classes

THE HONORABLE PETER W. BOWIE

Chief, United States Bankruptcy Judge

TITLE

Bankruptcy “Mock Trial”

DESCRIPTION

The students visit the historic Jacob Weinberger Courthouse at 325 West “F” Street, San Diego, CA 92101.

Judge Bowie has the students conduct a mock bankruptcy dischargeability of debt “fraud” trial featuring current young celebrities. The students have a script and assume the roles of plaintiffs, defendants, attorneys, courtroom deputy, bailiff, and judge.

Following the 30 minute trial, Judge Bowie entertains questions from the students and teachers, and then the students are taken on a 30 minute tour of the courthouse.

ELIGIBILITY

Fourth grade through Middle School: one or two classes

To Schedule a Program

School Administrators, Teachers or Counselors:

If you would like to schedule a “Judges in the Classroom” program or would like more information, please contact Karen Nickerson at the United States District Court by e-mail or phone (see below).

E-Mail: Karen_Nickerson@casd.uscourts.gov

Telephone: 619-557-2680

The Court’s goal is to expose as many students and communities to the Judges in the Classroom program as possible. The judges are happy to return to schools they have already visited, especially if significant time has passed since the last visit.

The judges enjoy meeting the students and are happy to answer any questions at the end of the program.

We look forward to coming to your school in the near future.