

*Constitutional
Rights
Foundation*

Educating Tomorrow's Citizens

2009 Annual Report

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

MISSION STATEMENT

Constitutional Rights Foundation seeks to instill in our nation's youth a deeper understanding of citizenship through values expressed in our Constitution and its Bill of Rights and to educate young people to become active and responsible participants in our society. CRF is dedicated to assuring our country's future by investing in our youth today.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While maintaining its commitment to core programs such as Mock Trial, History Day, and the Expanding Horizons Internship Program, CRF in 2009 extended its reach and increased its impact through technology, connecting with even more students and teachers. CRF now offers more online resources than any other civics-related organization, and we plan to keep adding more. In addition to online versions of our acclaimed *Bill of Rights in Action* and our library of free lesson plans, CRF now offers several new websites that support our mission of helping young people become informed, engaged, and participatory citizens.

Here in Los Angeles and across California, Mock Trial and History Day continued to help tens of thousands of students develop critical-thinking skills and an excitement about civic learning. Hundreds of volunteer lawyers and judges gave countless hours to Mock Trial students who acted as lawyers, witnesses, and courtroom personnel. History Day students shared their discoveries from their original research by creating papers, websites, documentaries, and live performances about historical subjects. The level of accomplishment by the students in both of these competitions was remarkable.

Our Expanding Horizons Internships program partnered CRF with local law firms, businesses, nonprofits, and government offices to provide paid internships for 78 high school students. These young people gained confidence, new perspectives on their futures, valuable professional skills, and civic knowledge through real-world work experience and a series of enriching, informative seminars.

CRF's staff and volunteers reached students throughout Los Angeles with invaluable law-related educational experiences. In Courtroom to Classroom, students gained a firsthand look at the legal profession, learning about the Constitution directly from volunteer lawyers and judges in their classrooms. The Summer Law Institute gave scholarships to many Los Angeles-area students, allowing them an intensive immersion in the world of law and the opportunity to develop specific mock trial skills.

Many Los Angeles-area teachers received professional development from CRF's talented trainers to support and enhance their classroom work. Teaching American History provided U.S. history resources that supported teachers' instruction for tens of thousands of students. Deliberating in a Democracy prepared teachers to engage their students in deliberations on democratic principles while connecting both teachers and students to their peers in schools in developing democracies in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

As mentioned earlier, CRF's online presence and resources have been greatly expanded this year. . .



Joseph A. Calabrese
Chair



Jonathan Estrin
President

With support from the Annenberg Foundation, CRF developed the Civic Action Project (CAP), an innovative online curriculum in which students take civic actions to improve their communities. CAP works as a "lab" for U.S. government classes and gives teachers new ways to increase experiential civic learning. In the fall of 2009, CRF began field testing CAP in five cities across the country. The initial feedback from nearly 40 high schools shows that CAP motivates students to participate in their democracy by making government relevant and understandable. CAP shows potential for transforming how U.S. government courses will be taught in the future.

CRF has also created Educating About Immigration, an online curriculum and information aggregator on this important subject. Teachers can download CRF lessons, and the site encourages users to contribute their personal or family immigration story, learn about pending legislation, and find out how to make their voices heard. This project was made possible by the Weingart Foundation.

As this year's final addition to its family of online resources, CRF has been developing an online Educating About Intellectual Property web resource with lessons and case studies about copyright, trademark, and fair-use issues that surround music, product logos, and even political campaigns. This project is being done in collaboration with Street Law Inc. with funding from the federal government.

This continues to be a challenging time for all nonprofit organizations. Even in this difficult period, however, CRF has had a very successful year. That is due, and we offer thanks, to our committed board of directors, our dedicated staff, our extraordinary volunteers, the students and teachers who inspire us, and most of all our generous donors, who make all of these vital programs possible.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

Extending Our Reach and Strengthening Our Impact

Constitutional Rights Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization dedicated to helping our nation's young people become well-informed, engaged, and active citizens and to understand their rights and responsibilities as members of our democracy. Established in 1962, CRF is guided by a dedicated board of directors drawn from the worlds of law, business, government, education, and the media.

CRF's professional staff includes teachers and educators, lawyers, writers and editors, and youth development specialists. Volunteers also provide vital support for many CRF programs and activities and serve as adult role models for youthful participants. To accomplish its goals and objectives, CRF applies its resources in the following areas:

Mock Trial. Each year since 1980, CRF has developed and distributed a new Mock Trial case and has administered the Los Angeles County and statewide Mock Trial competitions. The Mock Trial program is designed to help California students learn about our judicial system. School districts in 36 California counties participated in the 2009 California State Mock Trial Competition, involving over 8,000 students and 3,000 judge, lawyer, and teacher volunteers.

History Day in California. To enrich and enliven their study of history, student participants in History Day research historical issues, ideas, and people and apply what they have learned to create research papers, displays, media productions, performances, and web pages. More than 1,000 students and 1,000 family members and teachers from 33 California counties participated in the state finals.

Expanding Horizons Internships. This CRF program places qualified urban students in law firms, businesses, government offices, and non-profit organizations. The program empowers young people to serve as school and community leaders while they gain valuable paid work experience and college preparation. In 2009, the program placed 78 local students in Los Angeles-area offices.

Teacher and Professional Development. Teachers receive training and professional development from CRF through workshops in history, law and government, and civic



The State Mock Trial Competition involves over 8,000 students and 3,000 judge, lawyer, and teacher volunteers.

participation. In 2009, CRF's Teaching American History (TAH) program provided more than 200 teachers from seven school districts with U.S. history resources designed to support classroom instruction. All TAH resources originate from CRF's U.S. history materials, from scholars connected to local academic institutions, and from an extensive bibliography selected by TAH staff.

Publications. CRF's data-collection instruments estimate that CRF materials and publications reach nearly 2.4 million students annually. In 2009, CRF developed the *Educating About Immigration* website for use by teachers in addressing important and timely immigration issues in their classes. CRF's signature newsletter, *Bill of Rights in Action*, reached over 30,000 educators with four new issues to help teachers and students with content-rich, standards-based curriculum on U.S. history, world history, U.S. government, and current issues. A special issue on environmental issues was funded by the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Environmental Law Section. The year's articles covered diverse topics, from the fall of Egypt's Old Kingdom to the revolution of the Gutenberg press to the major debates at the Constitutional Convention.

This year, CRF's websites attracted more than 1 million unique visitors to buy materials from our publications catalog, download free online lesson plans and classroom materials, and access CRF programs. In collaboration with



CRF's materials, publications, and web sites reached nearly 2.4 million students annually.

the Judicial Council of California, CRF created the interactive *Judges, Courts, and the Law* website. *CRF Forum* continued to serve the education community with an online youth-voice platform for student discussion and commentary on topics including culture and diversity, governance, global climate change, and school-based events, issues, and news.

Civic Action Project. In 2009, CRF field tested the innovative CAP curriculum that gets students to explore public policy beyond the four walls of the classroom. CAP integrates hands-on learning about public policy into standards-based content in U.S. government classes. The program enlisted 59 teachers in five states, sponsored a national training institute in Los Angeles, and presented a training webinar for teachers nationwide. The CAP website became the online nexus for students to post their projects and communicate with their peers and teachers. The site also allows teachers to access the downloadable curriculum, post teacher-generated materials and feedback, and easily assess their students' progress in taking civic actions.

Free Expression in a Free Society. CRF sponsors this annual academic competition to challenge students to research and create video projects that explore themes and events related to freedom of speech in history, the Bill of Rights, and principles of democratic participation. In 2009, the two first-place documentaries explored the life and work of the Nobel Prize-winning Burmese political reformer Aung San Suu Kyi and the American singer and activist Pete Seeger.

Lawyer in the Classroom. Two CRF programs provide students throughout Los Angeles County with a deeper understanding of the judicial system and its processes by connecting them with members of the legal community.

Courtroom to Classroom brought judge and attorney teams to middle or high school classrooms where they engaged students with materials designed to support U.S. history and government courses.



This year our Expanding Horizons Internships program placed 78 local students in law firms, businesses, government offices, and non-profit organizations.



In 2009, CRF field-tested the innovative CAP curriculum that gets students to explore public policy beyond the four walls of the classroom.

The Appellate Court Experience provided students with an opportunity to observe oral arguments in a criminal appeal, meet with presiding justices at the California State Court of Appeal, and engage in classroom activities.

The Summer Law Institute (SLI) offers a week-long summer program for high school students interested in learning more about the American legal system. Co-sponsored by the California Bar Foundation and the UCLA School of Law, the 2009 SLI attracted 50 high school students and awarded many participants with scholarships.

Deliberating in a Democracy. This program fosters the teaching of democratic principles by partnering teachers and students in the United States with those in developing democracies of Eastern Europe. In 2009, approximately 20 teachers and 1,200 students participated. The program included exchanges and interaction with teachers and students from Serbia, Lithuania, and other parts of the U.S., such as Montgomery County, Maryland, and Columbia, South Carolina.

Educating for Democracy: The California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools. In 2009, CRF continued this civic-education collaboration with the Center for Civic Education and the Alliance for Representative Democracy. The campaign sponsored a range of student and teacher activities to celebrate Constitution Day, continued its public outreach efforts, and worked arduously to improve the coverage of civics in the revision of the California History/Social Sciences Framework. Educating for Democracy seeks the support of education, business, law, veteran, labor, parent, and service groups around the state to promote civic education in California.

In 2009, CRF's 22 staff members were able to plan, develop, and deliver new and ongoing materials and programs, guided by a 60 member board of directors and underwritten by an approximately \$3.2 million budget.

Statement of Operational Revenues and Expenses

For the Year Ending December 31, 2009

REVENUES

GRANTS		
Government	769,099	21%
Private	638,567	17%
CONTRIBUTIONS		
General Contributions	113,819	3%
Events (net of expenses)	797,713	21%
Donated Goods & Services	52,107	1%
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)	879,938	24%
MATERIAL SALES	88,495	2%
PROGRAM FEES	412,931	11%
OTHER SOURCES	<u>2,141</u>	<u>0%</u>
	\$ 3,754,809	100%

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES		
Law and Government	1,335,363	42%
Civic Participation	764,975	24%
Publications	409,667	13%
FUND RAISING	404,143	12%
ADMINISTRATION	<u>272,985</u>	<u>9%</u>
	\$ 3,187,133	100%

The above has been audited. A complete audited financial statement is available upon request.

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Participants in History Day research historical issues, ideas, and people and apply what they have learned to research papers, displays, media productions, performances, and web pages.

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Endowments make sure that the future of CRF is secure. Since 1990, CRF has been fortunate to receive a number of endowments given by people who share our passion for civic education and support our mission, which loudly proclaims that teaching kids that democracy matters is crucial to a civil society.

CRF acknowledges with enormous gratitude past presidents who established endowments at CRF: Jerome C. Byrne, James A. Cobey, and Alan I. Rothenberg; to past board members, Jack Stutman and Robert Rosenstiel; and to our long-time supporters Phyllis and Robert Henigson for their continuing Life Income Gifts. We would also like to recognize Dr. Jama Laurent and the board of directors of the Creative Kids Foundation for establishing an endowment allowing CRF to place students as interns in arts organizations in Los Angeles. To all of you, a very special thank you. Most of all, we would like to send out a loud cheer and celebrate our champion of champions, Lloyd M. Smith, who throughout his life embodied the highest ideals of American democracy and believed in the importance that all young people be educated about their constitutional heritage. It was Lloyd who established the CRF Endowment Builders Program, ensuring that CRF's mission continue long into the future.

To all of our friends, supporters and donors, and to those people who have indicated that they will remember CRF in their will or by bequest: We thank you for your generosity and the trust you have given us. Most important, we thank you on behalf of the students of tomorrow who will have opportunities to learn about and celebrate our Constitution and its Bill of Rights for generations to come. Thank you.



Robert and Phyllis Henigson



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