

*Constitutional  
Rights  
Foundation*

*Educating Tomorrow's Citizens*

2008 Annual Report

# CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

## MISSION STATEMENT

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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

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In 2008, CRF initiated new ways to extend its reach and strengthen its impact in civic education through new technologies that connect with even more students and teachers. CRF launched its new web site, with an exciting new design, easier navigation, and special pages for teachers, students, parents, and alumni of our many programs. The new login feature increases visitors' interactivity with the CRF community and allows access to our nationally acclaimed *Bill of Rights in Action* and our library of free lesson plans.

The enhanced web site enabled CRF to forge ahead in important directions. CRF now offers more online resources than any other civics-related organization in the country and the goal is to keep adding more. With generous support from the Annenberg Foundation, CRF has been developing the **Civic Action Project (CAP)**, an innovative curriculum that gives U.S. government teachers new ways to increase civic learning and participation. Building on CRF's extensive service-learning and civics materials, CAP will motivate young learners to participate in their democracy by making government a relevant and understandable subject they will want to learn.

Thanks to the Weingart Foundation's support, CRF has also been developing *Educating About Immigration*, an online curriculum and information aggregator. Teachers can login and download CRF lessons on this important subject. The site will also encourage users to contribute their personal or family immigration story, comment on existing material, and share their own immigration-related community projects.

While expanding in these new directions, CRF maintained its commitment to its core of established, renowned programs. **Mock Trial** and **History Day** continued to help tens of thousands of students develop critical-thinking skills and an excitement about civic learning. The energy and commitment of the Mock Trial students enacting the roles of lawyers, witnesses, and courtroom personnel inspired hundreds of volunteer lawyers and judges to give countless hours to the project. History Day saw students become teachers of historical subjects that inspired them, enabling them to create research papers, web sites, documentaries, and live performances to show what they'd discovered.

This year our Youth Internship Program got a new name to better capture the power of the program. Now called **Expanding Horizons Internships**, the program partnered CRF with local law firms, businesses, non-profits, and gov-



Joseph A. Calabrese  
*Chair*



Jonathan Estrin  
*President*

ernment offices to provide internship opportunities for more than 100 high school students. These young people gained professional skills, new perspectives on their futures, and civic knowledge through real-world work experience and enriching, informative seminars.

CRF's dedicated staff and volunteers expanded our programs that serve students in classrooms throughout the Los Angeles area. In **Courtroom to Classroom (C2C)**, students gained a firsthand look at the legal profession, learning directly from volunteer lawyers and judges in their classrooms and local courthouses. The **Summer Law Institute** gave many Los Angeles area students the chance to dive deep into the world of law, developing courtroom skills from the *voir dire* of prospective jurors to the cross-examination of witnesses.

Two notable programs allowed the talented CRF trainers to offer teachers unique professional development. **Teaching American History** provided educators with U.S. history resources that supported classroom instruction for tens of thousands of students. Local teachers also participated in **Deliberating in a Democracy**, which engaged students in deliberations on democratic principles while connecting them and their teachers with schools in developing democracies in Eastern Europe. CRF also hosted a scholar from the Kurdish region of Iraq, here to learn about how we educate young people in hopes of furthering the democratization of Iraq.

In this extraordinarily challenging time for all organizations, we want to recognize and thank CRF's committed board of directors, energetic staff and volunteers, participating students and teachers, 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 (CRF) is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization dedicated to helping our nation's young people to 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 2008 **California State Mock Trial Competition**, involving over 10,000 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 research papers, displays, media productions, performances, and web pages. More than 40,000 students, their teachers, and family members from 33 California counties participated in 2008.

**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 2008, the program placed 105 local students in Los Angeles-area offices.



*The State Mock Trial Competition involves over 10,000 students and 3,000 judge, lawyer, and teacher volunteers.*

**Teacher and Professional Development.** Teachers receive training and professional development from CRF through workshops in history, law and government, and civic participation. In 2008, CRF's **Teaching American History** (TAH) program provided hundreds of teachers in more than 10 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 2008, CRF published the revised *Current Issues in Immigration 2008* for use by teachers in addressing these important and timely issues in their classes. The online version of *Current Issues* received over 16,000 individual page views. CRF's signature newsletter, *Bill of Rights in Action*, reached over 30,000 educators with three new issues to help teachers and students with content-rich, standards-based curriculum supplements. Issues addressed the themes of Intellectual Property, Reform, and Politics and contained articles on such diverse topics as digital piracy, Communism and democratic reform in China, and the origins of political parties in the United States.



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

This year, CRF's web site attracted over 1.2 million unique visitors with its diverse publications catalog, free online lesson plans and classroom materials, and access to CRF programs. The web site also continued to serve the education community with **CRF Forum**, 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.

**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 2008, the winning entries were two documentaries, one highlighting Alice Paul and the women's suffrage movement in the U.S. and the other exploring the Prague Spring of 1968.

**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.

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



*Our Lawyer in the Classroom programs provided students with a deeper understanding of the judicial system by connecting them with members of the legal community.*



*More than 2,000 students and over 25 teachers from the Los Angeles-area connected with schools in Lithuania, Russia, and Serbia through student conferences, video conferences, and teacher exchanges.*

**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 2008 SLI attracted 49 high school students and awarded many participants with scholarships.

**Deliberating in a Democracy.** CRF helped to create this program that fosters the teaching of democratic principles by partnering teachers and students in the United States with those in developing democracies of Eastern Europe. In 2008, more than 2,000 students and over 25 teachers from the Los Angeles-area employed an innovative methodology of in-class deliberation and connecting with schools in Lithuania, Russia, and Serbia through student conferences, video conferences, and teacher exchanges.

**Educating for Democracy: The California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools.** In 2008, 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 in September 2008, continued its public outreach efforts, and introduced legislation to further teacher professional development for quality civic education. **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 2008, CRF's 24 staff members were able to plan, develop, and deliver new and ongoing materials and programs, guided by a 64-member board of directors and underwritten by a budget of approximately \$3.5 million.

# Statement of Unrestricted Operational Revenues and Expenses

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For the Year Ending December 31, 2008

## REVENUES

GRANTS		
Government	845,634	41%
Private	801,439	38%
CONTRIBUTIONS		
General Contributions	133,041	6%
Events (net of expenses)	1,048,762	50%
Donated Goods & Services	57,118	3%
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)		
Dividends, Interest & Realized Gains/(Losses)	55,448	3%
Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	(1,410,565)	-68%
MATERIAL SALES	106,308	5%
PROGRAM FEES	436,379	21%
OTHER SOURCES	<u>12,132</u>	<u>1%</u>
	\$ 2,085,695	100%

## EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES		
Law and Government	1,383,327	40%
Civic Participation	1,016,100	29%
Publications	314,936	9%
FUND RAISING	474,514	13%
ADMINISTRATION	<u>298,650</u>	<u>9%</u>
	\$ 3,487,527	100%

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

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*This year our Expanding Horizons Internships program placed 105 qualified urban students in law firms, businesses, government offices, and non-profit organizations.*

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*The Summer Law Institute offers a week-long program for high school students to learn about the American legal system.*

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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 chairs 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.



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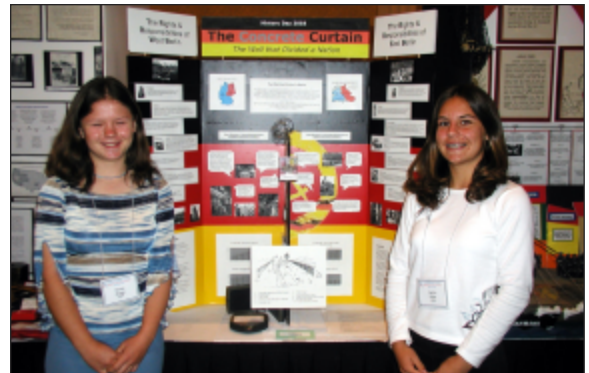
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