



2012 ANNUAL REPORT





CELEBRATING **50** YEARS

Our Mission

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

In 2012 Constitutional Rights Foundation celebrated its milestone 50th anniversary — 50 years of helping young people become informed and engaged participants in their communities, states, and nation. In 2012, CRF continued to expand its regional and national reach, as well as its impact. CRF served increasing numbers of young people, teachers, schools, and families in Los Angeles and throughout California and the nation. All of CRF's innovative programs, materials, and online resources are grounded in experiential learning and research-based proven practices of civic education. With increased web presence, CRF is both ahead of the curve in the field and an organization with a national dimension.

With new support from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation as well as the original Annenberg Foundation's grant, CRF greatly increased the reach of its innovative Civic Action Project (CAP). An online curriculum and practical toolkit, CAP makes civic engagement a lab for U.S. government classes. Students learn how policy affects the issues they care about and then take action — civic action — to create change in those same issues. In 2012, CAP expanded its reach to 800 teachers in over 40 states, reaching approximately 60,000 students. We are pursuing additional funding so CAP can be scaled nationwide, making civic engagement an integral part of more and more students' high-school learning.

We continued to add to our online resources in addition to CAP. With funding from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the Motion Picture Association of America, we offer teachers and students nationwide access to our Educating About Intellectual Property web site, which provides an ever-increasing library of multimedia case studies and lessons on copyright, trademarks, and patents. In this program, a collaboration with Street Law, Inc., students explore IP issues ranging from music mashups, product logos, and even patented life-forms.

CRF staff created and deployed a digital third grade curriculum called *MyTown*. The CD-ROM-based program contains full-color, original illustrations, Flash animation, and interactive games and activities. Its standards-based curriculum promotes research-based classroom practices, helps students develop critical thinking, and also integrates English-language arts instruction into the social studies.

With 117 schools participating, this was a record-setting year for CRF's Mock Trial program in Los Angeles County. Annually, our state-wide competition involves over 8,000 students from over 35 California counties.



Michael A. Lawson
Chair



Jonathan Estrin
President

In 2012, Expanding Horizons Internships was able to place 94 deserving young people in law firms, businesses, non-profits, and government offices, and to help them gain skills from informative seminars conducted by CRF's talented staff. CRF works with employer-partners to provide paid internships for these high school students who come from underserved backgrounds. These students, in turn, gain civic knowledge, valuable professional skills, new perspectives on their futures, guidance about higher education, and real-world work experience.

Deliberating in a Democracy in the Americas connected U.S. teachers and students to their peers in four countries in Latin America. Through an exciting deliberative discussion methodology, all participants explore the ways in which their democracies are both different and similar.

The success stories of our alumni, who have participated in Mock Trial, Expanding Horizons Internships, and our many other programs, are the best testimony to the effectiveness of our work. As part of our 50th anniversary, we collected alumni stories and are sharing them on our web site.

Through Mock Trial, Courtroom to Classroom, and Appellate Court Experience, CRF gave Los Angeles students a firsthand look at the legal profession, the courts, and constitutional issues.

CRF's law-related programs would not be possible without the thousands of hours that volunteer attorneys and judges give us so generously every year. We are indebted and deeply grateful for their continuing involvement with the young people we serve.

In 2012, here in California and across the nation, young people have experienced the impact of our innovative programs that enrich their lives and, in turn, enrich our democracy.

This year also marked another change. CRF President, Jonathan Estrin, announced his intended departure and the Board appointed a transition committee to conduct a search for the next president to lead CRF into the future.

What Is Constitutional Rights Foundation?

Constitutional Rights Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization dedicated to helping our nation's young people understand their rights and responsibilities as members of our democracy and helping them become well-informed, engaged, and active citizens. 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:



Civic Action Project. In 2012, CRF continued to expand CAP, an innovative program that provides a dynamic civic education experience for students, helping them explore public policy and government beyond the four walls of the classroom. Through CAP, students choose an issue that matters to them and address the issue by taking "civic actions," interacting with policy makers and community members as they initiate change. The program features a 14-lesson curriculum linked to state standards, teacher professional development and support, and teacher and student project planning tools. Through the CAP web site, students from around the nation blog about their chosen issues and interact with each other on the discussion board. During 2012, the number of teachers registered on the CAP site more than doubled, with overhas increased to 450 800 teachers in 3543 states. Among new CAP features, CRF developed and presented professional development webinars, established a multimedia contest for CAP students, and created a video to help students connect their issues to public polic and launched its first pilot of the CAP Youth Board. The CAP Youth Board consists of CAP alumni who have successfully completed their projects and act as peer-coaches to current CAP students via the CAP web site.y. Evaluation data of the field test and early implementation phases demonstrated high levels of teacher satisfaction and improved student civic competencies and capacities as a result of the program.

Mock Trial. The Mock Trial program is designed to help California students learn about our judicial system. Each year since 1978, CRF has developed and distributed a new Mock Trial case and has administered the statewide Mock Trial competition. CRF began the local competition in Los Angeles County in 1980. School districts in 36 California counties participated in the 2012 California State Mock Trial competition, involving more than 8,000 students and 3,000 judge, lawyer, and teacher volunteers.

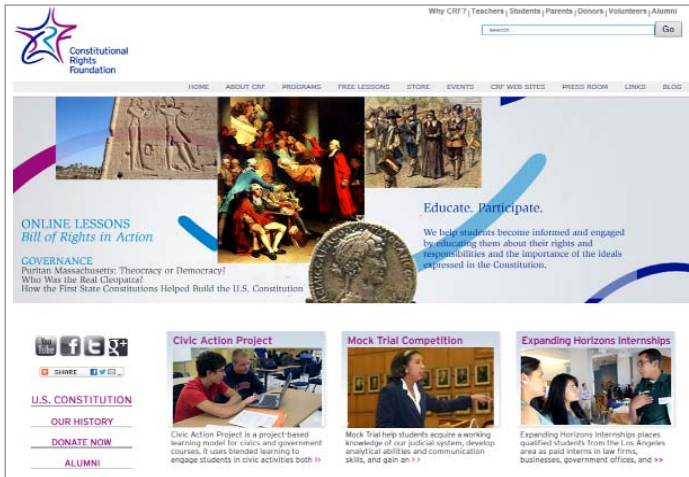
Expanding Horizons Internships. This CRF program places qualified urban students in law firms, businesses, government offices, and non-profit organizations. It empowers young people to serve as school and community leaders while they gain valuable paid work experience and college preparation. Since 1995, more than 1,560 students have participated in the program. In 2012, the program placed 96 local students in Los Angeles-area offices.

Professional Development for Teachers. CRF offers teacher professional development in Southern California and throughout the nation. In 2012, CRF provided programs and sessions on history, law and government, and civic participation. For example, our collaborative Teaching American History (TAH) projects provided teachers in northern and southern California school districts with U.S. history resources designed to support classroom instruction. TAH projects feature CRF's U.S. history materials and scholars connected to local universities, colleges, and museums.



Project L.E.A.D. CRF has established this law-related education program in partnership with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to teach children that the choices they make today can affect their lives forever. The 20-week curriculum focuses on the social and legal consequences of juvenile crimes, such as truancy and illicit drug use, and includes lessons about conflict resolution, tolerance, and respect for diversity. The culminating mock trial gives students a hands-on experience of America's criminal justice system.

Publications. CRF's data-collection instruments estimate that CRF materials and publications reach nearly 2.4 million students annually. CRF's signature newsletter, *Bill of Rights in Action*, reached over 40,000 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. The themes for 2012 included A New Order, Facing Crisis, Health-Care Reform, and Origins.



In 2012, CRF's web sites attracted more than 1 million unique visitors to buy materials from our publications catalog, access CRF programs, and download free online lesson plans and classroom materials. Educators access the *CRF Blog* daily for news and updates on vital constitutional issues, education policy, civic education, curriculum, and a variety of social studies topics.

Educating About Intellectual Property. With funding from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, CRF has partnered since 2011 with Street Law, Inc., to develop exciting new web resources on intellectual property. In 2012, CRF developed new lessons with additional funding from the International Trademark Association. The web site has high-interest materials for teachers, librarians, media specialists, and students, including interactive online case studies on patents, trademarks, and copyright. The site also offers polls, webcasts, classroom lessons, webinars on fair use in the classroom, and links to current issues of intellectual property.

Educating About Immigration. Building on the success of its publication *Current Issues in Immigration*, CRF developed this teacher-friendly set of lessons and web resources to spark students' knowledge and interest about this crucial topic. Designed for accessibility in the classroom and home, the web site provides lessons, information, and a place for everyone to share their personal immigration story. In 2012, CRF updated the Educating About Immigration web site for teachers with new polls, ongoing featured news about immigration policies, and a newly revised interactive lesson on the important Supreme Court case, *Arizona v. United States*. Constructive lessons on current issues are a hallmark of Educating About Immigration web site.

Judges, Courts, and the Law. Since 2010, CRF has partnered with the Judicial Council of California to create Judges, Courts, and the Law, a web site providing a rich set of resources to extend civics-based learning about the third branch of government to more and more classrooms. The 2012 First Amendment Cartoon Contest received over 1,010 entries from elementary, middle, and high school students across the nation. The site also features *Courts in the Classroom*, a lively, animated feature geared toward students and teachers alike.

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 oral arguments in a criminal appeal, meet with presiding justices at the California State Court of Appeal, and engage in classroom activities.

Deliberating in a Democracy in the Americas. Since 2005, the Deliberating in a Democracy program has fostered the teaching of democratic principles with hundreds of teachers and thousands of students around the world. In 2012, the newest program, Deliberating in a Democracy in the Americas (DDA), provided professional development to teachers in California and other U.S. states as well as teachers in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. The program partnered teachers and students in facilitated interactions that increase knowledge about democratic principles and civic competencies.

Educating for Democracy: The California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools. In 2012, CRF continued this civic-education collaboration with the Center for Civic Education and the Alliance for Representative Democracy. The campaign co-sponsored a student and teacher conference and online student and teacher activities to celebrate Constitution Day, supported legislative and public policy initiatives to support civics and social studies in the public school curriculum, and continued its public outreach efforts by making presentations and maintaining a Campaign web site. The Campaign continues to seek the support of education, business, law, veteran, labor, parent, and service groups around the state to improve the quality of civic education in California.

California Three Rs Project. CRF has long been a partner in this project to educate California's teachers about fostering rights, responsibility, and respect in teaching about religion and the First Amendment in our public schools. In 2012, CRF became the project's lead organization to develop curriculum on First Amendment issues, offer teacher-training, and provide vital information for the general public.

In 2012, CRF's 19 staff members were able to plan, develop, and deliver new and ongoing materials and programs, guided by a 73-member board of directors and underwritten by an approximately \$2.8 million budget.

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Constitutional Rights Foundation

Statement of Unrestricted Activities

For the Year Ending December 31, 2012

Revenues

GRANTS	
Government	319,451
Private	406,171
CONTRIBUTIONS	
General Contributions	136,316
Events (net of expenses)	959,818
Donated Goods & Services	265,667
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)	458,624
MATERIAL SALES	70,324
PROGRAM FEES	325,862
OTHER SOURCES	<u>164,485</u>
	\$ 3,106,720

Expenses

PROGRAM SERVICES	
Law and Government	1,041,474
Civic Participation	536,115
Publications	555,330
ADMINISTRATION	575,842
FUND RAISING	<u>315,057</u>
	\$ 3,023,818

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



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