



CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S CITIZENS

For Immediate Release

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CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION NAMES JONATHAN ESTRIN PRESIDENT

Nationally Recognized Philanthropic and Education Executive Takes the Helm at Leading Civic Education Organization

Los Angeles, April 14, 2008 – Following a nationwide search, the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) has named Jonathan Estrin to be its new President. Estrin assumes the position effective immediately.

“The Search Committee was extraordinarily impressed with Jonathan’s depth of experience in philanthropy and education, two key components related to CRF’s mission to educate students on the importance of civic responsibility,” said Joseph Calabrese, the current Chair of CRF’s Board of Directors and partner at the law firm of O’Melveny & Myers LLP.

Estrin had run a consulting practice in education, entertainment and new media opportunities for non-profit organizations. He was formerly Executive Vice-President of the American Film Institute, where he supervised its K-12 Teacher Education program, its renowned Conservatory of Filmmaking as well as film exhibition and new technologies. Prior to that he was the Dean of the College of Media Arts & Design at Drexel University, where he developed and implemented a business and marketing plan that resulted in dramatic increases in funds raised and enrollment.

Estrin has been a writer-producer for 30 years, and has created over 100 hours of award-winning television series, movies and miniseries for various broadcast and cable networks. His credits include *Cagney & Lacey*, the Showtime movie *Jasper, Texas* as well as such series as *Family Law* and an adaptation of Pat Conroy’s novel *The Water is Wide* for the Hallmark Hall of Fame/CBS. Estrin also Chairs the Board of Operation USA, an LA based international medical relief and development agency that was named by Worth Magazine as one of America’s Top 100 Charities.

“In naming Jonathan to this position, we sought a fresh perspective to help expand CRF’s status as a leader in civic education for America’s youth,” states Alan Friedman, Partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson who co-chaired the Search Committee with Sharon Matsumoto, Assistant District Attorney, Administration, LA County District Attorney’s office. *“Jonathan has a proven track record and the necessary experience in reshaping an organization during a time of change.”*

Estrin will be joined in senior management by longtime CRF staff member Marshall Croddy who will assume the newly created role of Vice President, heading up the critical areas of programs and publications. *“There is no person better suited for this job than Marshall Croddy.”* states

Calabrese. " Marshall will continue to play a vital role at CRF, bringing his breadth of knowledge of its programs and partners to CRF's ongoing work with young people throughout the country."

Estrin succeeds Todd Clark who served as Executive Director since 1990. Under Clark's leadership and throughout his 40 years of service to the organization, CRF has become a leading source of civic education for millions of students and teachers nationwide. Clark will continue to provide consulting advice for the nationally recognized *Educating for Democracy: California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools*.

Constitutional Rights Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan education organization. It seeks to instill in our nation's youth a deeper understanding of citizenship through values expressed in our Constitution and its Bill of Rights. Each year, CRF helps educate over one million young people to become active and responsible participants in our society with a variety of programs including the well-known Mock Trial and History Day programs.

For more information about CRF please refer to our website at www.crf-usa.org

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