

# 2010 Annual Report





### 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

Over the past year, CRF expanded both its regional and national reach and impact. Through new programs, new versions of existing programs, and increased online activities and resources, CRF reaches not only teachers and students, but also families. All of these efforts promote our goal of helping young people become informed and engaged participants in their communities, states, and nation.

We conduct local and national programs with our curricula, publications, innovative online resources, and distance-delivered experiential programs. This dual emphasis is a distinctive strength of Constitutional Rights Foundation that allows us to increasingly be hightouch and high-tech simultaneously.

CRF continued to find new ways to reach underserved populations here in California and across the nation. In addition to running the Mock Trial program at the county and state levels, which annually involves thousands of students, CRF developed an offshoot program to reach those schools not yet participating in the full statewide competition. The shorter, modified trial materials include procedures for jury selection and deliberation and allow for an engaging and yet less time-intensive experience. With this new program, CRF can now reach many more urban schools with law-related education. We are grateful to the hundreds of volunteer attorneys and judges who give so generously of their time to both of these programs.

Expanding Horizons Internships places deserving, but underserved young people in law firms, businesses, non-profits, and government offices to experience the professional workplace and also provides them with enriching, informative seminars. CRF works with our employer partners to provide paid internships for high school students, who gain new perspectives on their futures, valuable professional skills, guidance about higher education, civic knowledge, and real-world work experience.

Through Courtroom to Classroom and our Appellate Court Experience, CRF gives many Los Angeles students a firsthand look at the legal profession, the courts, and constitutional issues. Again, volunteer lawyers and judges provided not just their time and experience, but acted as important civic role models to students.

Teaching American History grants supported CRF's efforts to provide professional development for many California teachers. With the resources, ideas, and educational strategies provided by CRF trainers, they enhanced their classroom instruction for tens of thousands of their students.



Michael A. Lawson *Chair* 



Jonathan Estrin *President* 

In eight states, Deliberating in a Democracy connected teachers and students to their peers in Eastern Europe through a unique method for exploring democratic principles. In 2010, this program received another grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand its activities in Latin America and in other states.

With support from the Annenberg Foundation, CRF increased the national reach of its innovative Civic Action Project (CAP). An online curriculum and practical toolkit, CAP makes civic engagement a "lab section" of U.S. government classes. Students learn how policy affects the issues they care about, and they take civic actions to address those issues. Last year's field test in five cities demonstrated CAP's effectiveness. Building on that success, CRF increased the number of CAP schools in those cities. We are pursuing additional funding so CAP can be scaled nationwide and make civic engagement part of every student's high school education.

CRF launched its newest web resource, Educating about Intellectual Property. It provides lessons and multimedia case studies on copyright, trademarks, and patents. Students explore issues that arise through music, product logos, and even political campaigns. This project is federally funded by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and our partner is Street Law Inc.

Finally, thanks to the generous support of the late Dr. Jan Lipson, we created Celebrate America, a web site to provide resources for a meaningful and educational celebration of our civic holidays. Beginning with Independence Day, this vibrant site provides games, puzzles, dramatic plays, arts and crafts projects, shared historical readings, and even special recipes to increase the understanding of our national heritage.

In California and across the nation, young people experience the impact of our innovative programs every day. Their lives and our democracy are richer for what they are learning.

# **Constitutional Rights Foundation**

#### What Is CRF?

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 2010 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 34 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 2010, the program placed 87 local students in Los Angeles-area offices.

Professional Development for Teachers. CRF offers teacher professional development in Southern California and throughout the nation. In 2010, CRF provided programs and sessions on history, law and government, and civic participation. For example our collaborative Teaching American History (TAH) projects provided nearly 200 teachers from five school districts with U.S. history resources designed to support classroom instruction. TAH projects feature the use of CRF's U.S. history materials, scholars connected to local universities, colleges, and museums.



**Publications.** CRF's data-collection instruments estimate that CRF materials and publications reach nearly 2.4 million students annually. In 2010, CRF developed the Educating About Immigration web site 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 32,000 educators with four



new issues to help teachers and students with contentrich, standards-based curriculum on U.S. history, world history, U.S. government, and current issues. The themes for 2010 were Revolution and Change, Reaction and Reform, Tyranny, and Population Perils.

In 2010, 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. *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. Educators access the *CRF Blog* daily for news and updates affecting curriculum, classroom issues, education policy, and a variety of social studies topics.

Educating About Intellectual Property. With funding from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, CRF has partnered with Street Law Inc. in the development of exciting new web resources on intellectual property. This new web site has high-interest materials for teachers, librarians, media specialists, and students, including interactive online case studies that illustrate 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.



Judges, Courts, and the Law. 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 2010 First Amendment Cartoon Contest received over 850 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.

Civic Action Project. In 2010, CRF continued to field test and implement the innovative CAP program that provides a cumulative civic education experience for students, helping them explore public policy and government beyond the four walls of the classroom. Through CAP, students learn about local government and policy making and conduct "civic actions" by selecting a problem, issue, or topic and addressing it with individual or group projects. The program features a 14-lesson curriculum linked to state standards, teacher professional development and support, and teacher and student project planning tools. The online deliverable program had impact on over 100 teachers in six states, provided professional development webinars, and launched an improved web site containing enhanced programming. Evaluation data of the field test and early implementation phases released in 2010 demonstrated high levels of teacher satisfaction and improved student civic competencies and capacities as a result of the program.

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. 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 2010, 192 teachers and 8,700 students participated. The program included exchanges and interaction with teachers and students from Serbia, Romania, Lithuania, and other parts of the U.S., such as Chicago, Illinois, and Bloomington, Indiana.

Educating for Democracy: The California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools. In 2010, 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.

In 2010, CRF's 20 staff members were able to plan, develop, and deliver new and ongoing materials and programs, guided by a 69-member board of directors and underwritten by an approximately \$2.8 million budget.



# Statement of Operational Revenues and Expenses

For the Year Ending December 31, 2010

#### Revenues

	GRANTS		
	Government	336,133	11 %
	Private	529,620	17%
	CONTRIBUTIONS	100.000	- 01
	General Contributions	199,860	6%
	Events (net of expenses)	961,633	
	Donated Goods & Services	57,280	2%
	INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)	481,691	15%
	MATERIAL SALES	90,649	3 %
	PROGRAM FEES	358,536	
	OTHER SOURCES	84,947	
		\$ 3,100,350	100%
Expenses			
	PROGRAM SERVICES		
	Law and Government	927,560	33%
	Civic Participation	619,575	
	Publications	469,049	13%
	FUND RAISING	489,360	18%
	ADMINISTRATION	258,559	9%
		\$ 2,791,103	

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

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Making a donation of stock today will provide an ongoing gift to educate children throughout the United States. The donation of stock is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

For more information on making a gift to Constitutional Rights Foundation, please contact Jo Ann Burton at (213) 316-2102.



# **Endowment Builders**

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, teaching young people how to be engaged citizens inour democracy.

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 longtime 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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