



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT **LEARNING CENTER**

Michigan Hall of Justice, Lansing

2009–10 **EDUCATOR GUIDE**



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Dear Educators:

At the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, we look forward to partnering with you in the 2009–2010 school year. Please read further to learn more about:

- Social Studies Content Expectations and GLCEs.
- School Tours.
- Constitution Day.
- E-newsletter for Educators.
- Law Day.
- Exploring Careers in the Law.
- Educational Resources Online.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Learning Center. We are here to help you.

Sincerely,

Rachael L. Drenovsky, Learning Center Coordinator
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Social Studies Content Expectations and GLCEs

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center programs and resources address numerous Social Studies Content Expectations and Grade Level Expectations (GLCEs), especially in Civics.

Civics GLCEs (K–8)

- Purposes of Government (C1).
- Values and Principles of Government (C2).
- Structure and Functions of Government (C3).
- Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy (C5).
- Core Democratic Values—Special tours available!

Civics High School Content Expectations

- Conceptual Foundations of Civic and Political Life (C1).
- Origins and Foundations of Government (C2).
- Structure and Function of Government (C3).
- Citizenship in the United States (C5).
- Citizenship in Action (C6).

For details, see the Learning Center's Curriculum Resources web page at <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/resources/curriculum.htm>.

School Tours

The Learning Center's award-winning gallery is filled with activities designed for everyone from elementary students to adults. It features video presentations, educational computer games, a mock courtroom, and other hands-on activities guaranteed to engage your students. To request a tour:

- By phone, call the tour reservation line at 517-373-7171.
- By e-mail, visit the Learning Center web site for a fillable form at <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/misc/SchoolTourRequest.pdf>.



Tour Information

- For grades 3 and up.
- One hour in length.
- Accommodate groups of 10-48.
- Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (except state holidays).
- Scheduled up to a year in advance.
- **Free.**

Location

The Learning Center is located on the first floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice—headquarters of the state's judicial branch of government. The street address is 925 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48915.

The Learning Center is within easy walking distance of the State Capitol, Michigan Historical Museum, and other sites in downtown Lansing.



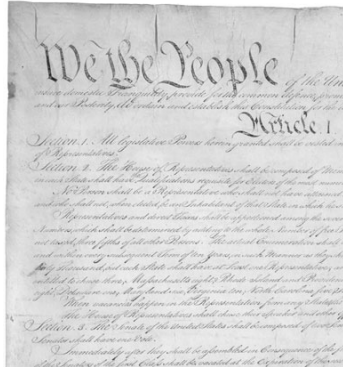
Constitution Day

Every year, schools and other organizations across the United States celebrate the signing of the final draft of the Constitution on September 17, 1787.

At the Learning Center

The Learning Center will offer special tours on Thursday, September 17, 2009. Call the tour reservation line at 517-373-7171 to schedule your Constitution Day tour.

- Docent-led “Where’s the Constitution?” tour.
- Opportunity to meet with dignitaries from the judicial branch of government.



New On the Internet, Elementary (Grades K–5)

If you and your students are not able to visit the Learning Center on Constitution Day, try the new 13-minute, pre-recorded webcast with Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly and elementary students. During the program the Chief Justice:

- Introduces herself and the role of Michigan’s judicial branch of government.
- Discusses the need for rules and laws in the lives of students.
- Overviews the Constitution, which is the “law of the land.”
- Reads the book *The U.S. Constitution* by Norman Pearl.
- Answers questions about why the Constitution is important.



Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly.

Curriculum materials are included with the program. The materials and webcast are available at:

MJI Online Courses—Scroll down to Constitution Day

<http://ustools.you-niversity.com/youtools/companies/mji/archivesLayout2.html>.

Constitution Day (continued)

Online Activities, Middle School and High School (Grades 6–12)

Many resources about the Constitution are available for older students as well. Below are some of the best being offered online.

American Bar Association—Constitution Day

<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/conversations/constitution/home.shtml>
Interactive activities, conversation starters, and lesson plans.

National Archives—Charters of Freedom

<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/charters.html>
Essays, transcripts, and images of the original copies held by the National Archives.

National Constitution Center—Constitution Day

<http://constitutioncenter.org/ConstitutionDay/>
Database of lessons, activities, books, and other resources.

Teaching American History—Constitutional Convention

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/convention/>
Essays, visual interpretations, an interactive map of Philadelphia, and links to primary sources.



Exploring Careers in the Law

Each summer, students interested in legal careers explore their options at the Michigan Hall of Justice.

- **7th–9th grade** students learn about a range of law-related careers through tours and activities. Participants meet with judges, lawyers, and other legal professionals, and observe proceedings at Lansing’s District Court. (**July 19–23, 2010**)
- **10th–12th grade** students prepare and present a moot court case, similar to arguments before the Michigan Supreme Court. They meet with lawyers, professors, and justices as they prepare their case. (**June 21–25, 2010**)



I thought this camp was just as fun and helpful this year as it was last year. And a camp that is good two years in a row is a good camp.
—High school student

My daughters stayed very interested in the program. They looked forward to each day and were sad that it was ending. Thank you. —Parent

Educational Resources Online

Are you looking for ways to make Civics come alive for your students? Check out the Learning Center online:

- Lesson plans, including mock trials and simulations.
- Online games and presentations.
- Background information and resources for research.



A Day in Court: Learn about the parts of a courtroom and how a trial proceeds.

<http://courts.mi.gov/plc/day-in-court/courtroom.htm>

Learning Center's Educational Resources
<http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/resources.htm>

E-newsletter for Educators

Sign up for *Justitia*, a free quarterly e-newsletter for educators, named for the international symbol, Lady Justice. Each two-page issue contains updates on Learning Center programs and tours, discusses news and information related to the courts, and offers resources to help K–12 educators teach about the judicial branch of government.

Issues arrive by e-mail in fall, winter, spring, and summer. An archive of all issues is available online at <http://courts.mi.gov/plc/educatorNews/>.

Anyone may subscribe by sending an e-mail to LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov. Please be sure to include your name, e-mail address, and school/organization.

Law Day

The Learning Center's annual Law Day celebration will take place on **Monday, May 3, 2010**. The theme will be announced in September 2009 by the American Bar Association. The event will include:

- Themed tours.
- Judges and other legal experts as guest speakers.
- Curriculum materials.

Call the tour reservation line at 517-373-7171 to schedule today!

Learning Center Educational Resources: Programs
<http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/resources/programs.htm>

Law Day—American Bar Association
<http://lawday.org>

You are receiving this newsletter because you registered at courts.michigan.gov or participated in a Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center tour or program. We encourage you to share this publication with your colleagues. To subscribe, please email plc@courts.mi.gov.



Winter 2009 Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Educator Newsletter

CALENDAR

- Mar. 3–5 Oral Arguments*
- Apr. 2–5 Oral Arguments*
- May 1 Law Day at the Learning Center
- May 3–4 Oral Arguments*
- May 13 Court Community Connections: Supreme Court Oral Arguments in St. Joseph County
- June 22–24 Exploring Careers in the Law, 10th–12th Grades
- July 13–17 Exploring Careers in the Law, 7th–9th Grades

*Michigan Supreme Court Oral Arguments, Michigan Appellate Oral Arguments, and American Bar Association and American Bar Endowment. *Themed tours only. See courts.mi.gov/plc/resources/programs.htm for details.

Law Day 2009
A Legacy of Liberty: Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial!

This year offers many opportunities to celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, in addition to President's Day, the national celebration of Law Day (May 1). Feature a Lincoln theme. You will find a list of the best Lincoln resources, including web sites and suggested readings for grades K–6, grades 7–12, and adults, on our web site at: <http://courts.mi.gov/plc/resources/lawday09/lincoln.org.pdf>.

Exploring Careers in the Law 2009
Summer Programs for 7th–9th and 10th–12 Grade Students

Do you know students interested in becoming a lawyer or judge? To learn all about the legal field, they can attend Exploring Careers in the Law at the Michigan Hall of Justice, Lansing.

- 7th–9th grade students explore a range of law-related careers through tours and activities. They meet with judges, lawyers, and other legal professionals, and observe proceedings at Lansing's District Court 54A. July 29–31, 2009.
- 10th–12th grade students prepare and present a moot court, similar to arguments before the Michigan Supreme Court. They serve as attorneys, judges, and other major players. Participants meet with justices, lawyers, and other legal professionals to help them prepare the case. June 27–28, 2009.

For more information, visit <http://courts.mi.gov/plc/resources/programs.htm> or contact Rachel L. Denczyk at 517-373-9027 or rdenczyk@courts.mi.gov.

You received this newsletter because you are subscribed to courts.mi.gov/plc/resources/programs.htm for educators. If you no longer wish to receive these resources, please email plc@courts.mi.gov.
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