

Constitutional
Rights
Foundation



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Educate. Participate.





Constitutional
Rights
Foundation

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

This year, Constitutional Rights Foundation, approaching its 50th anniversary in 2012, has been engaged in a planning process for this organizational milestone.

In 2011, CRF continued to expand both its regional and national reach and impact. We served increasing numbers of young people, teachers, schools, and families in Los Angeles, throughout California, and across the nation with our innovative programs, materials, and online resources. Our many and varied programs all serve the goal of helping young people become informed and engaged participants in their communities, states, and nation.

CRF provides curricula, publications, interactive online resources, and professional development for teachers across the nation. Everything we create and provide is grounded in experiential learning and research-based proven practices of civic education. An increased web presence combined with face-to-face training models have allowed us to develop a distinctive three-fold emphasis of conducting local, statewide, and national programs. This is one of our unique strengths.

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 government classes. Students learn how policy affects the issues they care about and then take civic actions to address those issues. In 2011, CAP expanded its reach to 500 teachers in over 20 states, reaching approximately 50,000 students. We are pursuing additional funding so CAP can be scaled nationwide, making civic engagement part of every student's high school education.

We continue to add to our innovative online resources. With funding from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 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. Students explore issues arising out of music, product logos, and even political campaign posters. Our partner in this project is Street Law, Inc.

CRF staff created a whole new third grade electronic curriculum, called *MyTown*. The CD-ROM-based program contains full-color, original illustrations, flash presentations, and an interactive game. Its curriculum covers over half of the California History-Social Science Standards for the third grade, promotes research-based classroom practices, helps students develop critical thinking, and also integrates opportunities for art instruction.

One of CRF's major goals is to continually find new ways to reach underserved populations. Year after year, CRF runs the Mock Trial program both in Los Angeles County and at the state competition in California — which yearly involves over 10,000 students. In 2011, CRF published *People v. Meadows*, a mock trial to reach those schools not yet part of the formal competition. With shorter,

modified trial materials, *People v. Meadows* provides a powerful, but less time-intensive experience, allowing CRF to reach many more urban and underserved schools with law-related education.

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

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. We have begun collecting their stories to share with our constituencies.

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

Mock Trial and all of 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 exist to serve.

Deliberating in a Democracy in the Americas connected U.S. teachers and students to their peers in Latin America, with an exciting method to help them explore the ways in which their democracies are both different and similar.

Teaching American History grants allowed CRF trainers to provide California teachers with the resources, ideas, and educational strategies that enhanced their classroom instruction for tens of thousands of their students.

In 2011, 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.



Michael A. Lawson
Chair



Jonathan Estrin
President

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:



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 2011 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 1,450 students have participated in the program. In 2011, the program placed 94 local students in Los Angeles-area offices.

Professional Development for Teachers. CRF offers teacher professional development in Southern California and throughout the nation. In 2011, 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 CRF's U.S. history materials and 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 2011, CRF continued to develop the Educating About Immigration web site for teachers to address 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 content-rich, standards-based curriculum on U.S. history, world history, U.S. government, and current issues. The themes for 2011 were Economic Crises, Communism, Revolutionary Thinkers, and Law.

In 2011, CRF's web sites attracted more than one 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., to develop 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 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.

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 2011 First Amendment Cartoon Contest received over 1,300 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 2011, 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 2011, the number of teachers registered on the CAP site more than doubled, with over 450 teachers in 35 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 policy. 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.

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. Since 2005, this program has fostered the teaching of democratic principles with hundreds of teachers and thousands of students around the world. The newest program, *Deliberating in a Democracy in the Americas*, provides professional development to teachers in California and other U.S. states as well as teachers in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. The program partners 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 2011, 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 2011, CRF's 20 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.



crf-usa.org

Statement of Unrestricted Activities

For the Year Ending December 31, 2011

Revenues

GRANTS		
Government	498,754	18 %
Private	502,908	18 %
CONTRIBUTIONS		
General Contributions	92,247	3 %
Events (net of expenses)	859,626	31 %
Donated Goods & Services	400,087	15 %
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)	(48,104)	-2 %
MATERIAL SALES	67,030	3 %
PROGRAM FEES	356,390	13 %
OTHER SOURCES	<u>35,838</u>	<u>1 %</u>
	\$ 2,764,776	100 %

Expenses

PROGRAM SERVICES		
Law and Government	1,243,611	41 %
Civic Participation	619,262	20 %
Publications	506,122	17 %
FUND RAISING	414,691	14 %
ADMINISTRATION	<u>228,375</u>	<u>8 %</u>
	\$ 3,012,061	100 %

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 Katrina Drabeck at (213) 316-2107.



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 in our 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 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 for 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.



Robert and Phyllis Henigson



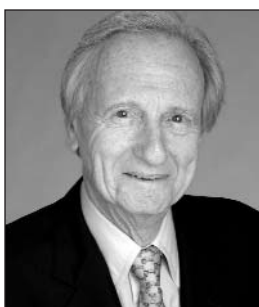
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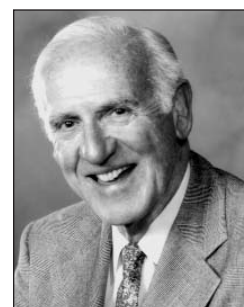
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