

Combined Efforts Create Groundbreaking Civics Camp at BYU

by Robert Clark



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Seventy-three impressive high school students attended a week-long civics camp at BYU Law School in Provo, Utah, this summer. It was the first camp of its kind and a tremendous success. From July 31 to Aug. 4, students from 22 states and one international student joined judges, law professors, and FBA attorneys for the “Civics, Law, and Leadership” camp. Judges from the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah hosted a full day at the courthouse in Salt Lake City, where students observed actual court proceedings, served as jurors in a mock trial, and heard presentations and panel discussions by the judges. Experiences at the law school included basic legal classes, interactive experiences with civics and leadership subjects, and moot court competitions directed by law student mentors. Evening activities included a talent show, fun social activities, and an engaging panel from lawyers from the Utah Chapter. Rebecca Fanning, outreach coordinator for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, generously

provided support and curriculum materials which were valuable to the camp.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, including the Foundation of the FBA, the Bench and Bar Fund of the District Court, and the FBA Utah Chapter, 19 students from less-privileged circumstances attended the camp on scholarship.

BYU Law School hopes to repeat the camp annually. The success of this camp could provide a template for many other locations around the country. Any campus that has experience with sports, music, or academic camps could be a prime location with support from the local district court, FBA chapter, or law school. Anyone interested in exploring such an idea is welcome to contact FBA member Rob Clark at rclark@parrbrown.com.

A short video of highlights from the BYU Civics Camp is available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s598hA3PyCI>. ©



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