



Federal Bar Association

CIVICS REPORT

This civics update is published quarterly. If your chapter has conducted a civics program and would like to be featured in our next report, please contact [Jenn French](#).

Featuring Civics Programs Around the United States

The Federal Bar Association supports civics education and community outreach through our chapters nationwide. See a program you'd like to replicate locally? Visit our Outreach page for more details.

[Learn More](#)

Recent Programs



On May 9, 2024, in partnership with the Justice for All Center at the Second Circuit, the Southern District of New York Chapter of the FBA hosted 12 students from Judith Kaye High School (Queens site) and 5 college students at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse in Manhattan. The students arrived early in the morning and were treated to a welcome and remarks by Second Circuit Judge Alison Nathan. Judge Nathan discussed her background, career trajectory, and the different levels of court jurisdiction and their meanings. After meeting with Judge Nathan, the students met with SDNY Magistrate Judge Jennifer Willis in her courtroom where a robust conversation about Judge Willis's career in civil rights and as a judge took place. The students had several questions and were engaged.

The students then had an opportunity to sit in the courtroom of District Judge Vernon Broderick, who was overseeing a civil rights trial involving police misconduct. The students witnessed the defense cross examination of a police detective, which they found very exciting and riveting. Afterwards, the Chapter treated the students to a hearty and delicious pizza and salad lunch where they were joined by Judge Broderick, who answered questions about the trial. During lunch the students also had presentations from a Deputy U.S. Marshall and Senior Officer with the U.S. Probation Office to discuss career pathways in other sectors in law. Afterwards, the students took a tour of the Second Circuit Justice for All Learning Center. The students closed out the day by observing a 30-minute oral argument at the Second Circuit with the Hon. José A. Cabranes, Hon. Barrington D.

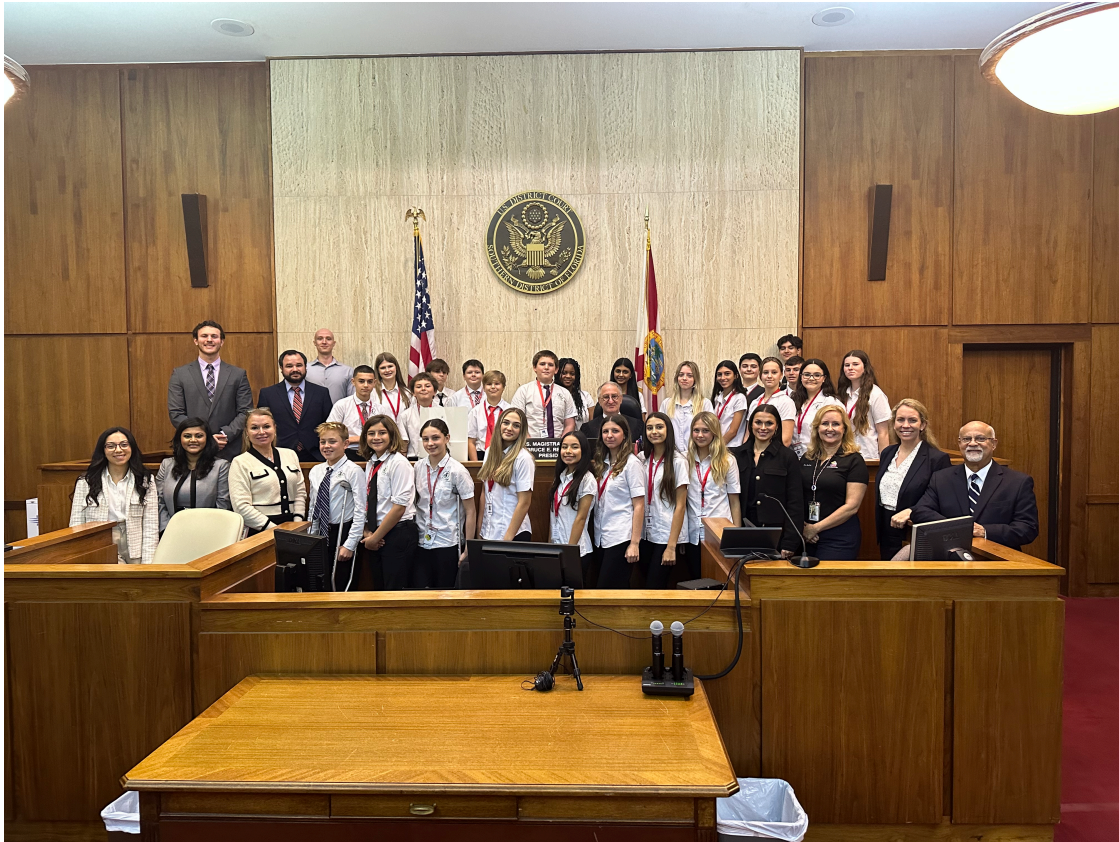


On May 31, 2024, the Southern District of New York Chapter of the FBA hosted the AP U.S. History Class of High School of Environmental Science for a civics program. The day began in the chambers of District Judge Jessica Clarke accompanied by Chapter Board members Nancy Morisseau and Wylie Stecklow. Judge Clarke met and spoke with the students, took several photos, and answered some tough questions from a well prepared and very interested group of high school students. The group then observed an actual federal criminal trial in front of District Judge Anun Subramanian. The next stop was a naturalization ceremony where Judge Furman swore in 100 individuals as they became new United States citizens. Thereafter, Judge Furman met with the students and answered some of the very same, tough questions posed to Judge Clarke. The students then walked across the street from 500 Pearl Street to 40 Foley Square—the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse—and reconvened at the Second Circuit's *Justice For All* Program for pizza, salad and more civics. The Chapter had coordinated with the circuit executive office, including Ross Centani and Aisha Parks, who helped facilitate a representative of the U.S. Probation Office to meet with the students. The group was joined by three law student members of the FBA New York Law School Chapter, Sarah Chan, Isaac Maya, and George Jing Lin Li, and they had a great conversation with these high school seniors about college, law school applications, and recommendations on



On Sept. 20, 2024, 22 students from the Crawford High School Law Academy visited the Southern District of California in San Diego for a day of observation and conversation. Chief District Judge Dana M. Sabraw welcomed the students to observe his criminal calendar, which included a sentencing hearing and several status conferences. Next, the students had boxed lunches provided by the San Diego Federal Bar Association. District Judge James E. Simmons Jr. and his clerks joined the luncheon, and Judge Simmons shared his path to the bench before answering questions about his experiences and encouraging the students to not let anyone get in the way of their dreams. Finally, they rounded out the day with an interactive program on the **Bill of Rights**. District Judge Robert S. Huie facilitated the discussion, along with his law clerks and volunteers from the San Diego FBA. The students broke into small groups and discussed which of the first 10 amendments spoke to them and why before sharing questions about their selected amendment with the group. The students impressed the volunteer attorneys with their thoughtful analysis and questions about the Bill of Rights. And the day came full circle when the group discussed the right to a speedy trial, which came up during every status conference in Judge Sabraw's courtroom. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and Crawford expressed a desire to participate in additional programs in the future.

Southern District of California's former Community Outreach Coordinator. The federal courts' national educational programming made it easy for the San Diego chapter and our local judges to present an interactive and engaging program. If you have questions about the San Diego civics day or the educational resources, please contact [Jenn French](#).



On Feb. 11, 2025, 25 students from the Independence Middle School's Pre-Law Academy visited the U.S. District Court in West Palm Beach for a [Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions](#) program (CD3). Seven attorney volunteers from the Palm Beach Chapter of the Federal Bar Association welcomed the students. The day started with introductions and a courtroom tour. The students then engaged in discussions about the importance of civility and civil discourse and then broke out into small groups to prepare for mock oral argument. U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce E. Reinhart presided over the mock fact pattern tailored after *Elonis v. United States*, 575 U.S. 723 (2015). At the conclusion of oral argument Judge Reinhart revealed what happened in *Elonis* and hosted a Q&A session where everyone reflected on the arguments made by both sides and engaged with the attorneys and the Judge. Independence Middle typically participates in CD3 once a year and we are excited to welcome them back again next year.

To date, the Palm Beach County Chapter's Civics Outreach Committee has partnered with over 25 local schools, hosted over 40 programs with over

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

1,200 students, through the aid of over 200 attorney volunteers. To learn more about the Chapter's Civics Outreach Committee or to participate in

upcoming programming, please contact [Violette Bishai](#).



**Federal Bar
Association**

Copyright (C) 2025 Federal Bar Association. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)