

2018 Annual Conference for Teachers in Civics, Law, and Government



Holiday Inn West
Itasca, Illinois
Friday, October 26, 2018
7:30 AM - 2:30 PM



*Civil Rights, Civil Disobedience &
Civil Discourse*

Conference Agenda

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Registration (Holiday Inn Atrium)
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM	Session I Workshops (See schedule for location of workshops)
9:30 AM – 10:25 AM	Session II Workshops (See schedule for location of workshops)
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	BREAK & REFRESHMENTS (Holiday Inn Atrium)
11:05 AM – 12:00 PM	Session III Workshops (See schedule for location of workshops)
12:05 AM – 1:00 PM	Session IV Workshops (See schedule for location of workshops)
1:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Luncheon (Natchez Rooms 1-3)
	Teacher of the Year Awards Victor Filippini, Filippini Law Firm, CRFC Board Member Barbara O'Donnell Award (Secondary Teacher)
	Keynote Address: "First Amendment Stewardship in Dark Times" Jamie Kalven, Writer & Human Rights Activist; Founder, Invisible Institute
2:30 PM	Conclusion & Departure

Exhibits

American Bar Association, Division for Public Education
 Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
 Fantasy Congress
 Illinoiscivics.org
 Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center
 Judy Barr Topinka Charitable Foundation & Hilton Publishing

Workshops at a Glance

Session I 8:30–9:25 AM	Session II 9:30–10:25 AM	Session III 11:05–12:00 PM	Session IV 12:05–1:00 PM
Making Every Voice Count: The Census and Representation Monticello 1	Creating Spaces for Student Action Monticello 1	Current & Controversial Issue Discussions & Classroom Practice Monticello 1	Civil Discussion in Polarizing Times: Building Empathy, Trust & Critical Thinking Monticello 1
Free Press & the U.S. Supreme Court: Incorporating Case Studies in the Classroom Monticello 2	The Role of Civility (or Lack Thereof) Throughout Our History Monticello 2	Civil Rights & Civil Disobedience: The Case Behind Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" Monticello 2	Civil Rights & Civil Wrongs: An Investigation of Chicago's Protests of 1968 and 2018 Monticello 2
Teaching Controversial Topics to High School Students Natchez 4	It is Our Duty to Win: Advancing Education as a Practice of Freedom Natchez 4	The Intersection of Cellphone Technology & the Fourth Amendment Natchez 4	Extinguishing Voice: Representation, Gerrymandering, and the 14 th Amendment Natchez 4
U.S. Supreme Court Review (OT 17) Natchez 5	U.S. Supreme Court Review (OT 17) Natchez 5	U.S. Supreme Court Preview (OT 18) Natchez 5	U.S. Supreme Court Preview (OT 18) Natchez 5
Thurgood Marshall — Law as a Tool for Creating Equality *PDR	Do Students Really Shed Their Rights at the Schoolhouse Gate? *PDR	Judy Baar Topinka, A Profile in Civics *PDR	From Hamilton to Parkland: How Students Participate in Politics and Protest *PDR

* Private Dining Room

Acknowledgements

The 2018 Annual Conference for Teachers in Civics, Law, and Government is a program of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC). Support for the conference and featured CRFC programs comes in part from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, the family of Barbara O'Donnell, and the CRFC Board of Directors.

CRFC thanks all the conference presenters for their contributions to the success of the program.

Session I Workshops
8:30 – 9:25 am

MAKING EVERY VOICE COUNT: THE CENSUS AND REPRESENTATION

Monticello 1

Mary Ellen Daneels
Robert R. McCormick
Foundation

The addition of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census has brought up issues related to power, representation and judicial review. Collaborate with others as we explore how this current and controversial issue can be an engaging case study for students. Walk away with free resources to enhance your classroom.

FREE PRESS & THE U.S. SUPREME COURT: INCORPORATING CASE STUDIES IN THE CLASSROOM

Monticello 2

Catherine Hawke
Christine Lucianek
American Bar Association
Division for Public Education

This session explores how the Supreme Court has ruled on First Amendment issues related to freedom of the press through case studies. Participants will work in groups before discussing how the Court might apply case law to several hypotheticals focusing on technology and social media.

TEACHING CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Natchez 4

Jason Mink
Skinner West Classical

Teachers will discuss strategies for engaging students in discussions of contemporary controversial topics. Such topics include same sex marriage, public school prayer, stem cell research, capital punishment and flag burning.

U.S. SUPREME COURT REVIEW (OCTOBER TERM 2017)

Natchez 5

Steven Schwinn
John Marshall Law School

This session will review the major cases from the docket of the Supreme Court's October 2017 Term, including putting these cases in a larger context of trends and patterns on the Court and in its jurisprudence.

THURGOOD MARSHALL — LAW AS A TOOL FOR CREATING EQUALITY

PDR

Kathy Miller
Constitutional Rights
Foundation Chicago

Thurgood Marshall, first African-American U.S. Supreme Court Justice, was a forerunner of the modern civil rights movement, winning lawsuits to desegregate education, housing, voting, the military; even the right to refuse to surrender one's seat on the bus before Rosa Parks was arrested. Participants in this session on civil rights education will explore how litigation has furthered democracy, the rule of law, pluralism, inclusion, and the promotion of social justice to share with their students.

Session II Workshops
9:30 – 10:25 am

CREATING SPACES FOR STUDENT ACTION

Monticello 1

Gabrielle Benoit
Corrine Durette
Wendell Phillips High School

This session will highlight ways to create space for student voice and action through managing community partnerships, classroom discourse and school-wide curriculum pushes. Ways to engage and excite students about exploring their community (local and abroad, as well as managing student-led projects will be discussed. Time will be provided to brainstorm and trouble shoot ways to implement similar strategies in various youth settings.

Session II Workshops (cont.)
9:30 – 10:25 am

THE ROLE OF CIVILITY (OR LACK THEREOF) THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY

Monticello 2

Lindsey Draper
Attorney

As taunts proliferate throughout social media, as "alternative facts" are conveyed by news sources, and as partisan allegiances seem to have replaced concern for national best interest, the session will focus on the notion of "civility" in our nation's history and will include discussion of events that suggest the lack of civility is nothing new - just better known.

IT IS OUR DUTY TO WIN: ADVANCING EDUCATION AS A PRACTICE OF FREEDOM

Natchez 4

Brent Hamlet
Chicago Collegiate Charter
School

Young people have always been on the front lines. Drawing inspiration from Dr. bell hooks, Dr. Patricia Hill Collins and others, this session will frame a very radical vision of education. Exploring current and past trends and practices, this will be a lively discussion on the way we are or should center and intersect education and the democratic process.

U.S. SUPREME COURT REVIEW (OCTOBER TERM 2017)

Natchez 5

Steven Schwinn
John Marshall Law School

This session will review the major cases from the Supreme Court's October 2017 Term, including putting these cases in a larger context of trends and patterns on the Court and in its jurisprudence.

DO STUDENTS REALLY SHED THEIR RIGHTS AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE GATE?

PDR

Dr. Steven Klein
Constitutional Rights
Foundation Chicago

This session provides an overview of Supreme Court cases and how they shape policy with regards to student rights and discipline. A simulated student discipline hearing will be used to demonstrate the current law.

BREAK & REFRESHMENTS
10:30 – 11:00 AM

**HOLIDAY
INN ATRIUM**

Come mingle with your colleagues, check out the exhibits, and enjoy some tasty treats!
The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago booth has lots of give-a-ways!

Session III Workshops
11:05 – 12:00 PM

CURRENT & CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE DISCUSSIONS & CLASSROOM PRACTICE

Monticello 1

Mary Ellen Daneels
Robert R. McCormick
Foundation

Explore the promise of current and controversial issue discussions in classrooms to mitigate political polarization's long-term, harmful effects. Walk away with applicable classroom resources and strategies to respond to contemporary challenges in this interactive session that demonstrates pedagogy in practice.

Session III Workshops (cont.)

11:05 – 12:00 PM

CIVIL RIGHTS & CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE: THE CASE BEHIND DR. KING'S "LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL" Monticello 2

Howard Kaplan
Tiffany Willey Middleton
American Bar Association Division for Public Education

This session examines *Walker v. Birmingham*, the pedagogically compelling Supreme Court case behind the 1963 civil rights campaign. Martin Luther King Jr.'s arrest led to the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." In probing *Walker*, the presenters will examine this fascinating story of the civil rights movement to consider the relationship between civil disobedience and the rule of law. Extensive handouts and resources provided. Aligned to Common Core, C3, and the Illinois Social Science Learning Standards.

THE INTERSECTION OF CELLPHONE TECHNOLOGY & THE FOURTH AMENDMENT Natchez 4

Douglas Wm. Godfrey
Chicago-Kent College of Law

In *United States v. Jones*, the court addressed whether police use of a GPS tracking device required a warrant. In *Carpenter v. United States*, at issue is whether cell-site location information (CSLI), could be accessed by law enforcement without a warrant. CSLI is generated when a phone communicates with a cell tower. Do "broader privacy concerns" weigh in favor of Fourth Amendment protection for cellphone records?

U.S. SUPREME COURT PREVIEW (OCTOBER TERM 2018) Natchez 5

Steven Schwinn
John Marshall Law School

This session will preview the major cases now on the docket for the U.S. Supreme Court's October 2018 Term, including putting these cases in a larger context of trends and patterns on the Court and in its jurisprudence.

JUDY BAAR TOPINKA, A PROFILE IN CIVICS PDR

Joseph Topinka
Texas State University

The session will address how Judy Baar Topinka, a famous politician in Illinois, took on the establishment and succeeded as no other woman has done in Illinois. She did not always win, but she never gave up in life, whether as a child, mother, student, newspaper reporter, legislator, or state level leader. She was a woman who broke through glass ceilings, and her story has so many lessons about leadership, good management, civility, compromise, perseverance, balance, integrity, heritage, and advocacy...lessons young people can learn from and apply to make their lives and the lives of others better through a better appreciation of our state and country's governmental and political systems.

Session IV Workshops

12:05 – 1:00 PM

CIVIL DISCUSSION IN POLARIZING TIMES: BUILDING EMPATHY, TRUST & CRITICAL THINKING Monticello 1

Carolyn Pereira
Constitutional Rights
Foundation Chicago (ret.)

Not only does the full development of each individual human being depend on rational discussion of controversial issues, but so does the health of our democracy. (Nell Noddings, *Educating for Intelligent Belief or Unbelief*) Building on a joint deliberation project of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, the Constitutional Rights Foundation, and Street Law, Inc., Street Law's New Perspectives program has begun to revise and update the lessons. Experience one. What other issues should be developed?

CIVIL RIGHTS & CIVIL WRONGS: AN INVESTIGATION OF CHICAGO'S PROTESTS OF 1968 AND 2018 Monticello 2

Natasha Robinson
Roosevelt University

This session will compare and contrast the protests of 1968 in Chicago and the protests of 2018 in Chicago. We will explore the happenings of then and now. Have there been changes in the issues of our society? Who was protesting then and who is protesting now? How can we share with our students how to activate their voices about the things that matter to them? These questions will be discussed and effective teaching methods and strategies will be shared with attendees as we seek to reaffirm our civil rights and our responsibility to protest civil wrongs.

EXTINGUISHING VOICE: REPRESENTATION, GERRYMANDERING, AND THE 14TH AMENDMENT Natchez 4

Jennifer Conlon
Maine East High School

Participants, in teams, will draw and analyze maps to understand the impact of gerrymandering on voice, representation, and policy. After considering limits imposed by past cases, participants will consider a proposed remedy, which would have been raised in *Gill v. Whitford*. Carrying forward the concept of equal voice, participants will reflect on the disparities in representation in the Electoral College and the U.S. Senate and the questions and impacts which result.

U.S. SUPREME COURT PREVIEW (OCTOBER TERM 2018) Natchez 5

Steven Schwinn
John Marshall Law School

This session will preview the major cases now on the docket for the U.S. Supreme Court's October 2018 Term, including putting these cases in a larger context of trends and patterns on the Court and in its jurisprudence.

FROM HAMILTON TO PARKLAND: HOW STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS AND PROTEST PDR

Ben Silver
Citizen Advocacy Center

From the earliest days of our republic, students have played a critical role in the political and protest movements that shaped the United States. In recent decades, their efforts have helped influence current policy, as the legal framework governing free speech and press, peaceable assembly, and censorship evolved around them. This presentation will explore the history and law of protest, highlighting the legal framework that currently governs student political participation both in and out of school.

Luncheon

1:15 – 2:30 PM

Natchez
Rooms 1-3

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Kathy Miller, Executive Director, Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

2018 LAW-RELATED EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Victor Filippini, Filippini Law Firm, Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago Board Member

Barbara O'Donnell Award

This award for high school teachers is named in memory of Barbara O'Donnell, a superb teacher and former director of the Center for Law and Justice at Chicago's Lincoln Park High School.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "FIRST AMENDMENT STEWARDSHIP IN DARK TIMES"

Jamie Kalven, Writer & Human Rights Activist; Founder, The Invisible Institute

PRESENTERS

Gabrielle Benoit is a Special Education teacher at Wendell Phillips Academy High School in Bronzeville on Chicago's South Side. She works closely with Corinne Durette, coaching students through community advocacy projects and student-led social justice movements. Her students founded TACTICS (Teens and Cops Together in Chicago Successfully), and have flown around the country to present their work and engage in civil discourse related to the school to prison pipeline. Benoit is an alumni of the Stanford University Hollyhock Fellowship, an Engagement Specialist for The Academy Group, and member of the Board of Directors for the National Youth Advocate Program foster care and social services non-profit organization.

Jennifer Conlon teaches Government, ESL through AP, at Maine East High School, which became a Democracy School in 2013. She also sponsors Demon-crazy, Maine East's Government and Politics Club. She has facilitated student participation in elections, helped students run Citizenship workshops to prepare adults for the test, coached students in grant-writing to secure funding for home Wi-Fi for students without, and tried to bring the larger world to her students, including skyping with a grad active in the Syrian Revolution. Over the past several years, she has worked to include service-learning in her classes and to make simulations increasingly authentic. A former attorney and congressional staffer, she enjoys making democracy accessible to all her students and is delighted to help others do the same.

Mary Ellen Daneels is a National Board Certified teacher who has taught at West Chicago Community High School for 26 years. She has been recognized as the Law-related Educator of the Year from the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago, Teacher of the Year by the 19th District of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Civic Education Teacher from the Center for Civic Education. Mary Ellen has presented on service learning, simulations, and the use of controversy in the classroom at the local, state, and national level, as well as provided professional development workshops in Estonia, Angola, and Belarus. A member of the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition, Mary Ellen has advocated for civic education before federal and state lawmakers. She serves on the Board of Directors for the National Council of the Social Studies and recently worked on a task force to revise social studies standards in Illinois.

Lindsey Draper, until his retirement from the Wisconsin Department of Justice in 2014, oversaw Wisconsin's adherence to the mandates of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) as the state's Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator and Compliance Monitor. This followed his retirement from service as a Circuit Court Commissioner for Milwaukee County. His legal career spanned 30 years and included work as a Commissioner, Assistant State Public Defender, and Assistant District Attorney with primary assignments at Milwaukee County's Children's Court Center. Draper has served as the Juvenile Law instructor for the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department Training Academy, Chair of the Wisconsin State Bar Law-Related Education Committee, Chair of the Board of Directors at Rosalie Manor, and a Trustee at St. Francis de Sales Seminary. He is currently Chair of the Board of Directors at St. Charles Youth and Family Services in Milwaukee, a member of the Board of Directors

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of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, Director-at-Large of the National Client Protection Organization, and a member of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He coaches the Wauwatosa West High School Mock Trial team and instructs high school students attending the East Side (Milwaukee) Child and Youth Ministry.

Corinne Durette is a Special Education Physics and Chemistry teacher at Wendell Phillips High School. In addition to teaching these subjects, she works to encourage student activism through after school clubs, and also coaches the boys and girls swim teams at Phillips. Durette has a B.A. in Psychology and African American Studies from Temple University and a M.Ed in Curriculum Design and Instruction from Concordia University. She is a Hollyhock Fellow through CSET (Center to Support Excellence in Teaching) at Stanford University and an alum of the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program.

Douglas Wm. Godfrey is a professor at Chicago-Kent College of Law. Godfrey received his B.A. with honors (history and philosophy) and M.A. (literature) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. Prior to joining IIT Chicago-Kent, he was the sole practitioner of the Law Office of Douglas Wm. Godfrey, where he practiced litigation, including criminal defense, civil litigation and appellate practice. Before establishing his own firm, he was a prosecutor in the Kings County District Attorney's office, where he served in the sex crimes and homicide bureaus. After leaving New York, Professor Godfrey joined the Chicago law firm of Katten, Muchin and Zavis, where he was a litigation attorney. He is a member of the Illinois State Bar, New York State Bar, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (including the Trial Bar), United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Illinois Attorneys for Criminal Justice (Board of Directors), Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Brent Hamlet is on staff at Chicago Collegiate Charter School on Chicago's far South Side in the department of Student Support Services. Previously, he was employed at Civic Education Project, an award-winning program that combines service learning with academic study and reflection. He completed his post-secondary education from the City Colleges of Chicago, Alcorn State University, and Northeastern Illinois University. Born and raised on Chicago's South Side, he is a leader with South Siders Organized for Unity and Liberation, better known as SOUL and is a board member with Democracy for America, Coalition of Justice and Respect, and a Mikva Challenge Teacher. In these circles he emphasizes positive youth development and strategic civic engagement.

Catherine Hawke is an Associate Director and Editor with the American Bar Association Division for Public Education. Hawke edits and manages the YourLAW client newsletter and ABA Preview. In addition, she helps coordinate the Division's Supreme Court programming and various teacher professional development opportunities. She received her BA in History and Political Science from the University of Michigan in 1999 and her JD, magna cum laude, from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 2006.

Jamie Kalven is a writer and executive director of Invisible Institute, a journalism production company on the South Side of Chicago. He is the author of *Working With Available Light: A Family's World After Violence* and the editor of *A Worthy Tradition: Freedom of Speech in America* by his father, Harry Kalven, Jr. Since the early 1990s, Kalven has had a parallel career working in inner city Chicago neighborhoods. He has served as consultant to the resident council of the Stateway Gardens public housing development and currently serves as consultant to the residents of the Henry Horner Homes. At Stateway Gardens, he created a program of "grassroots public works" aimed at creating alternatives for ex-offenders and gang members. And he worked to develop human rights monitoring strategies; among them, an online publication called *The View From The Ground*. Kalven has reported extensively on patterns of police abuse and impunity in Chicago. He was the plaintiff in *Kalven v. Chicago*, in which the Illinois appellate court ruled that documents bearing on allegations of police misconduct are public information. His article "Sixteen Shots" in *Slate* in 2015 first brought the police shooting of Laquan McDonald to public attention. And his 2016 article "Code of Silence" in *The Intercept* exposed the criminal activities of a team of corrupt Chicago officers operating in public housing. Among the awards he has received are the 2015 George Polk Award for Local Reporting, the 2016 Ridenhour Courage Prize, and the 2017 Hillman Prize for Web Journalism.

PRESENTERS

Howard Kaplan is Associate Director for the American Bar Association Division for Public Education, where he has worked since 1987. He directs the ABA's Silver Gavel Awards for Media and the Arts, which recognize outstanding efforts to foster public understanding of law. Howard has presented professional development sessions for teachers at such conferences as the National Council for the Social Studies, National Council for History Education, and National Law-Related Education Conference. He also has written and edited instructional resources on law, culture, and history, as well as policy reports and studies on civic education. His article, "The Rule of Law and Civil Disobedience: The Case Behind King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail" appeared in *Social Education* in 2013. Howard received a BA in history from the Johns Hopkins University and an MA in intellectual history from the University of Chicago, where he completed pre-dissertation requirements for the PhD.

Dr. Steven Klein began his career in education as a classroom teacher in Philadelphia. Moving to Illinois in 1989, Dr. Klein served as the Illinois law-related state project director for the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. In 1991, he was hired as a curriculum coordinator in Elgin-based School District U-46, supervising the areas of social studies, foreign language, gifted education, and student discipline. Dr. Klein has taught at the university level for Aurora University, Lewis University, and the University of New England. He has a B.S. in secondary social studies education and an Ed. M. in educational leadership from Temple University in Philadelphia and an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from Loyola University Chicago.

Christine Lucianek is the Education and Research Manager for the American Bar Association Division for Public Education. Lucianek manages the ABA's annual National Civics & Law Academy program for high school students. She develops educational materials for teachers and lawyers to use in the classroom and has been involved in curriculum development projects for the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Journalism Education Association. Lucianek has a B.A. in Political Science from Indiana University and an M.A. in Education Management and Leadership from the University of Sydney, Australia.

Tiffany Willey Middleton is the Education Programs and Research Manager at the American Bar Association in the Division for Public Education. She edits a magazine for high school teachers who wish to incorporate law into their teaching, *Insights on Law & Society*, and presents a variety of programs on teaching about legal topics throughout the year. Middleton has a B.A. in History from Capital University and an M.A. in American history from Case Western Reserve University. She volunteers in her community with the Edgewater Historical Society, as well as Chicago Metro History Fair.

Kathy Miller is Executive Director of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC). She has overall strategic and operational responsibility for CRFC's staff, programs, resources, and execution of its mission to assure CRFC continues to bridge the civics education gap and expand its reach to assure all students have the ability to participate fully in our democracy. Her career in the nonprofit sector extends from legislation and advocacy to nonprofit management and fund development. She founded Public Interest Fundraising, offering consulting services in fundraising, governance, and communications to local, state, national and international nonprofit organizations. In addition to consulting and working for dozens of nonprofit organizations, she was national ACLU lobbyist on race and sex discrimination where she led the successful lobbying campaign to amend Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect pregnant workers. She was Associate Director of the ACLU of IL; and served on the Board of Directors for the ACLU of Illinois and the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union. She has been a member of the Illinois State Bar Association's Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section Council and a founder of United We Learn, a grassroots organization that supports equity in public school education.

Jason Mink is now in his seventeenth year of teaching in Chicago Public Schools. He just started his first year at Skinner West Classical where he is teaching seventh grade math and social studies. Previously, he taught social studies for 15 years at Steinmetz College Prep High School. Mink received both a Bachelors and Masters degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana. During his time at Steinmetz, he enjoyed engaging in discussions with students about controversial issues, aspects of democracy and features of authoritarian rule. He finds that middle school students are just as willing and capable of having such discussions. Mink resides in Chicago with his wife and daughter.

Carolyn Pereira was the Executive Director and founder of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago until her retirement in 2010. Her work included professional development in civic deliberations and curriculum/ program design to support the discussion of controversial public issues including: *Youth and Justice*, a weekly call-in talk show

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featuring high school students and an attorney anchor; *Jefferson Meetings* to discuss structural issues of the Constitution; the *Illinois Youth Summit*--students deliberate controversial public issues with policymakers and each other; *Improving Classroom Discussion on Controversial Issues*, seminars on discussion models; *Law Study Groups*, using civil conversation models which led to the creation of *Equal Justice Under Law*; and two international projects--*Deliberating in a Democracy* and *Deliberating Democracy in the Americas*.

Natasha Robinson is on faculty at Roosevelt University and is a member of the Department of Government, Law and Justice where she teaches criminal justice classes to undergraduate students, including criminal law and ethics & criminal justice. Natasha was formerly the head of the Law and Public Safety Academy, a four-year honors program at Al Raby School for Community and Environment, a Chicago Public Schools high school located on Chicago's West Side. A longtime resident of the Chicagoland area, Natasha received her B.A. in English from the University of Iowa, her M.A. in English from Chicago State University, and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Prior to becoming an educator, she served as an Assistant Public Defender of Cook County for over 12 years. Natasha is a member of the Illinois State Bar and is also a faculty member of the Office of the State Appellate Defender Trial Advocacy Program in Illinois where she teaches lawyers how to be more effective trial attorneys.

Steven Schwinn is a Constitutional Law Professor at the John Marshall Law School where he teaches Lawyering Skills and Constitutional Law II. His specialty areas include constitutional law, negotiation, client interviewing, appellate advocacy, legal analysis, and writing. Schwinn came to John Marshall from the University of Maryland School of Law, where he joined the faculty in 2001. In 2005, he received the Clinical Legal Education Association Award for Excellence for his work as a faculty co-supervisor on a post-conviction case involving a petitioner's claim of innocence, and he has been recognized for his pro bono work. Previously, Schwinn taught at George Washington University Law School for two years. He also was assistant general counsel for the Peace Corps from 1996 to 1999. In law school, he was a member of the editorial board of the *American University Journal of Gender & Law*.

Ben Silver is a community lawyer with the Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC), a non-profit, non-partisan community legal organization. CAC assists the public with legal questions, monitors local governments, promotes civic education, and ensures public access to government. Silver previously served as a Legal Fellow in the Office of Congressman Sander Levin, where he advised the Congressman and his staff on campaign finance reform and voting rights. He served as a student lawyer in Georgetown's Federal Legislation and Administrative Clinic, where he worked with the National Women's Law Center to advocate for the Student Non-Discrimination Act. He also worked as an enforcement intern for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Washington Field Office, where he investigated claims of workplace discrimination. Silver earned a B.A. in Quantitative Economics from Tufts University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Joseph Baar Topinka is a retired military attorney and an Assistant Professor of Practice at Texas State University. When not teaching, he is a part-time doctoral student at the University of Texas School of Public Health. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana; a Juris Doctor from Northern Illinois University; a Master of Business Administration from Saint Martin's University in Lacey, Washington; a Master of Laws, Military Law, United States Army Judge Advocate General's School, Charlottesville, Virginia; a Master of Health Administration from Chapman University in Orange, California; and a Master of Laws, Health Law, Loyola University Chicago. He has published or co-published many works including *Just Judy*, *A Citizen and Leader for Illinois*, a biography about his late mother, Judy Baar Topinka. Topinka was born in Berwyn, Illinois and raised in Riverside, Illinois. He and his wife, Christina, have one child named Alexandra.

About Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) strengthens American democracy by providing elementary and secondary students with hands-on learning about the Constitution to prepare them for informed civic engagement. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, CRFC develops and delivers interactive programming, classroom-tested professional development, and problem-based curricula that address rights and responsibilities, law, and policy. CRFC was founded in 1974 as part of the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles and in 1990 became an independent 501(c)(3) organization.

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