



## COURTROOM SKILLS AT CONCORDIA

April 7, 2014











## EVENT SUMMARY

**Event Title:** Courtroom Skills at Concordia

**Date & Time:** April 7, 2014, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., MST

**Location:** Concordia School of Law, Boise, Idaho

**Number of Students:** 61

**Participating Schools:** Borah High School, Capital High School, Kuna High School, Marian Pritchett School, Middleton High School, Mountain View High School, Parkview, Renaissance Rocky Mountain High, Timberline High School, and Vallivue High School.

### Summary of Events:

For its Spring 2014 event, Love the Law! hosted a “Courtroom Skills” program at the Concordia School of Law in downtown Boise. The goal was to provide participants (all High School students) with an opportunity to learn some courtroom skills and then practice them in a mock trial setting.

This event began with a welcome by Love the Law! committee Co-Chairperson, Lucy Juarez and Dean Cathy Silak of the Concordia School of Law. The students were then given an overview courtroom skills presentation by Shayne Nope, a 3L student at the University of Idaho law school. After this presentation the students were split into smaller groups wherein they were guided by volunteer attorneys and law students through a mock trial scenario. The participants prepared direct examinations and cross examinations. Then the groups were reunited into one room again where the mock trial took place with Dean Silak serving as the presiding Judge. Participants were then given the opportunity to practice their direct and cross examinations during this mock trial portion of the event.

A judiciary panel with special guests Judge Sergio Gutierrez of the Idaho Court of Appeals and Judge Jayme B. Sullivan, Canyon County Magistrate Judge, took place after the mock trial. Both Judges spoke openly about their unique paths to the bench. The Judges described their job duties, shared their stories regarding personal struggle and addressed the importance of diversity on the bench and in the legal field in general. The participants were also given the unique opportunity of interacting with the Judges during the question and answer portion of the panel.

The participants were then provided a lunch and given the opportunity to speak with Love the Law! Committee members, who each work in the legal field in various capacities.

After lunch the participants were treated to a Law Student panel with law students from both the Concordia School of Law and the University Of Idaho School Of Law. The law student panel members spoke about their various paths to law school. Most of the students on the panel had arrived at law school via a non-traditional path. The law students provided unique and entertaining perspectives about everything from taking the LSAT to balancing life and law school and their plans after school. Love the Law! participants were able to ask the law students any questions they had which resulted in a lively and informative discussion.

**Student Profiles:** (Note: Not all students completed)

- Male: 23
- Female: 28

- African American: 4
- Asian: 6
- Latino/Hispanic: 7
- Mixed Race: 6
- Caucasian: 30

- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: 2
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: 12
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: 7
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 17

**Costs Associated with Event:**

Love the Law! funds were used to pay for the following expenses:

Expense	Amount
Costco	\$46.88
Veggie Trays	\$131.31
Domino's Pizza	\$168.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$346.69</b>

Additionally, Parsons, Behle and Latimer provided folders in which to place handouts. The students received Love the Law! tumblers for participating in the program which had been purchased in conjunction with a previous Love the Law! event. Also, Concordia donated the rooms and space at the law school and the presenters also donated their time and experience.

**Student Feedback:** Please see attached document.



## EVENT EVALUATION

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Event Name: Courtroom Skills at Concordia

Event Date: April 7, 2014

Event Location: Concordia School of Law

Please tell us what you liked **best** about this event:

- The mock trial
- The people involved
- Just talking to everyone
- I really enjoyed getting to hear the judges and the mock trial
- I enjoyed all the students and office holders that talked
- I liked being able to talk to the law students about this profession
- The mock trial
- Having more time to ask questions. Great pizza!
- Being able to ask each judge questions
- I liked the mock trial and getting an idea of how real trials are run.
- I enjoyed that we got to have a mock trial and that we got to ask questions
- Everything!
- The mock trial
- Getting to have a practice court and talking to the law students
- Hearing the judges and their experience in judging
- That there was a Latino judge talking about his past
- Most is about the crime part, the judge
- I liked how we could participate by asking questions and doing a mock trial
- I thought the mock trial was exciting
- I liked best is about crime and judges. How they become?
- I really liked the judges panel when they took their time by providing their background information
- I enjoyed hearing the judges and students talk and the mock trial was fun
- I liked the food and the students who were talking about their law school lives
- I liked how we were involved in the mock trial
- It cleared up a lot of confusion that I had before I came here

- I liked when Judges give us the answers to our questions. I got many experiences from their explanations.
- I liked getting lawyers and law students perspective and also seeing what a trial was like
- That at the beginning they had a case and let us mess with that
- Being able to ask questions to the judges
- I liked watching the mock trial and witness cross examination
- The mocking trial, that was fun. Also being to ask questions to the law students.
- Learning more about getting into law. How rewarding being in law is. Mock trial.
- I like the student panel and also I think everything is good.
- I like best about how the judges handle and career
- When we did the mock trial learned a lot and loved the feeling to be a lawyer
- I really enjoyed the mock trial
- The Judges panel
- The mock trial activity
- I got to see a judge that helped change my life
- I liked that everyone was friendly rather than serious the whole time
- I like having the ability to ask questions
- I really liked the Judge/Law student panel. It was really great to see all aspects of law
- The mock trial was extremely fun and panels are always educational
- I very much enjoyed the mock trial
- Getting the opportunity to kinda experience what a trial is like
- I liked that we could ask questions about the legal field and learn about the fields that are there.

Please tell us what you liked **least** about this event:

- Too many people in the mock trial room
- Sitting and listening the whole time
- None
- Length/timing; if people aren't asking questions, move on; maybe give a list of questions to help start brainstorming on the topic
- The length
- The judge's panel went on a long time
- It needs more attendees
- I didn't like how big the groups were. I think it made it harder to learn with such large groups.
- Nothing
- How rushed everything is. Maybe go til 2pm not 1pm.
- The judge's panel
- Sitting in the same room for an extended period of time
- Judge's panel
- Lunch was kind of short
- skills session
- mock trial was not so interesting, not put together well
- plaintiff/defendant
- There was too much time for the Q&A

- It was the debating and examining the case of Harbour v. Newton
- Nothing, everything was great
- Nothing, it was great!
- They didn't have enough activities for students
- I liked when we went in groups (Plaintiff, Defendant was really fun)
- Lunch was only 20 minutes?!
- A lot of sitting at the beginning and a lot of talking
- Time budgeting
- Research for the mock trial
- The judges panel because I really wasn't interested in panel
- Nada, everything was very good
- How little time was available for the mock trial
- The amount of time judges answered questions
- Sitting in the same room too long
- Too much listening rather than doing/participating
- What I least liked about this was that instead of having time for having on or two judges maybe have a wide variety
- Wish that there had been more time and structure during the mock trial to help give us a better understanding
- Everything was good!
- Not a lot of "hands on experience." Too long just sitting and listening.
- What I liked least was the time. It seemed a little short and rushed.

How can we improve this event?

- Microphones for the judges so it's louder
- Come up with some activities that involve more participation
- More break down description for the general program of law
- More time for the trial
- Have groups be split in smaller sizes creating a better learning system.
- It was amazing
- Try separating everyone in groups and give everyone a chance to have 1 on 1 with a lawyer or judge or law student, because the time you give us to do it at our own good will we're shy. Maybe let us sit in on a class if possible or have a teacher come and teach what he would to a 1L on their first day.
- More hands on
- Give a tour of the school
- You did great
- Lengthen the lunch, besides that nothing else
- Break into smaller groups for the mock trial and have a small cross-ex p direct examinations. We should talk to practicing attorneys
- Make the mock trials longer
- Make more time for a more in-depth prepared mock trial
- You would improve this event, maybe by providing a summertime quiz to students and participants so as to nail the unforgettable memories or reminder
- Make lunch a little longer. It was great though. I appreciated the law students



- By doing a lot more hands on things and be a bit more active
- More preparation before the mock trial
- More mock trials & turns, get more familiar with that setting
- I think make that more fun and also talk with students
- Maybe putting more of a lawyer feel like have every kid ask a question
- Send out the depositions before the event so all can already be up to date on the case
- Have more interaction, not just sitting
- I think we should do some more hands on
- More activities
- To improve this event you could make it longer but express the law a little more like helping people understand better.
- During the mock trial I wish things were better explained such to what else we were doing
- Little bit more instruction in mock trial and connecting it to actual trial hearings
- I would suggest a little more time to prepare for the mock trial
- More “hands on” activities
- Time could be improved and more interactions with the kids attending

#### Ideas for other Love the Law! events:

- Less people in the mock trial/split us up more
- Work closer with law students not just panel discussion
- Actual trial, activities for certain professions
- Being able to watch a trial
- Mock trials and working hands on with law students or lawyers
- See a real trial
- More experience in any type of setting court, trials
- Have a mock trial competition
- Going into more of all types of laws such as civil v. criminal, branches off of such as divorce law, agricultural law, environmental law, etc. Just to give us options with a law degree.
- Mock trial, more interactive events

#### Other Comments:

- It was fun
- This was my 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> time coming and every time it has been different and better. Good job!
- Thanks
- Awesome, can't wait for the next one
- Thank you for taking the time to do this for us students
- This is a great event
- Thank you so much for the great event. I'm am studying the Judicial Branch in my classes and this was a wonderful event to witness the truth and reality about how the judicial branch works from the supreme courts to the state courts. So I say thank you so much.
- Good lunch

- I thought the law students were very interesting and likeable
- Talk more about the LSATs
- Had lots of fun thanks
- Thanks, keep doing what you do!
- You guys are great! Thank you for throwing events together and doing such a good job!
- Thanks so much!
- This was a great experience