

**PRESENTED TO
THE ANIMAL LAW SECTION
BY EDITH PACILLO
AUGUST 25, 2020**

Idaho Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 reminds us that “[e]very lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least (50) hours of *pro bono publico* legal services per year.

Rule 6.1(b)(3) reminds us that a lawyer should “provide additional legal services through: . . . participation in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession.”

The Idaho State Bar and its members have taken that rule to heart and demonstrated their commitment to civic education through programs such as the Law Related Education (“LRE”) committee and program.

Visit http://www.isb.idaho.gov/ilf/menu_lre.html

To learn more about all the programs that ILF provides to the community.

WHY BE CONCERNED ABOUT CIVIC EDUCATION?

Former United States Supreme Court Justice David Souter expressed his concern about civic education in the United States when he said, ***"I don't believe there is any problem of American politics in American public life which is more significant today than the pervasive civic ignorance of the Constitution of the United States and the structure of government."***

Former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor stated, ***"We are failing to impart the basic knowledge that young people need in order to become effective citizens and leaders when they are of voting age."***

In 2012, Xavier University's Center for the Study of the American Dream released the results of a study in which native-born United States citizens took the civics portion of the United States Naturalization test.

While the pass rate for immigrants seeking citizenship was reported to be 97.5 percent, one in three United States citizens born in this country failed the civics portion.

Among the questions:

- The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers. (8% answered correctly)
- When was the Constitution written? (9% answered correctly)
- What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence? (18% answered correctly)
- Who was President during World War One (21% answered correctly)
- What does the judicial branch do? (25% answered correctly)

MORE CAUSE FOR CONCERN

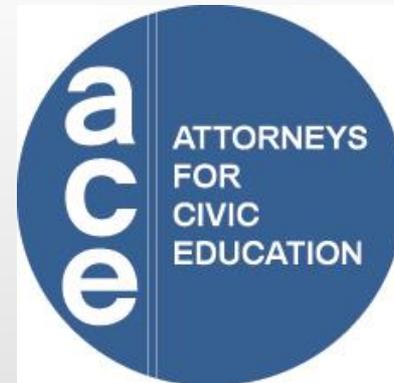
IOLTA funding of Idaho's Law Related Education programs has decreased by 80% in recent years.

Congressional funding of We The People and Project Citizen eliminated in 2010.

These budget cuts hit rural school districts especially hard, because many civic education programs have a travel component, requiring significant funds to participate.

HOW CAN ATTORNEYS HELP?

- **Get involved with LRE programs**
- **Help out in your local schools**
- **Volunteer as a judge or coach of a team**
 - **Mock trial**
 - **We The People**
 - **YMCA Youth Government**
- **Join ACE**



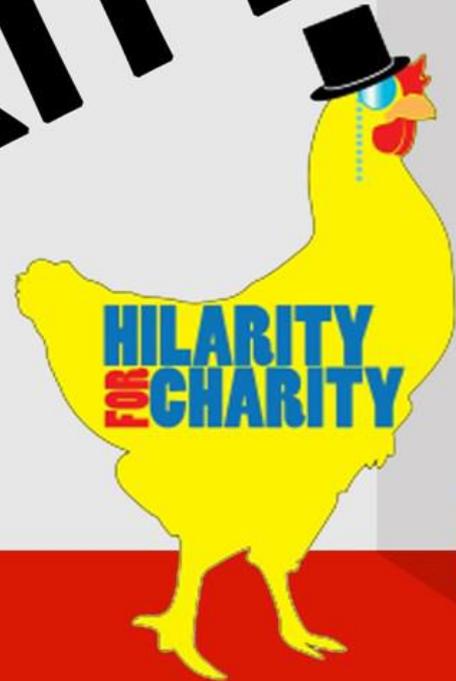
- ACE is a public service project of the Idaho State Bar Government and Public Lawyer Section – but anyone can join.
- ACE is a “booster club” for k-12 civic education programs in Idaho. ACE raises awareness, volunteerism, and funds for civic education programs in Idaho.
- ACE does not create new programs, content, or curriculum.

❖ **Currently, ACE is focusing its active efforts on:**

- We The People
- Idaho Mock Trial
- YMCA Youth in Government
- Institute for Journalists:
<https://www.uidaho.edu/law/outreach/idaho-journalism-on-law>
- Institute for Secondary School Teachers:
<https://www.uidaho.edu/law/outreach/teacher-ed>



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❖ **We The People**

- We The People is a high school, middle school, and upper elementary school curriculum provided by the Center for Civic Education.
- <http://new.civiced.org/programs/wtp>
- The program enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy and also encourages students to apply those principles to contemporary society and events.
- The simulated congressional hearing make teaching and learning exciting for both students and teachers.
- Since its inception in 1987, more than 28 million students and 75,000 educators have participated in the We the People Program.

In 2014, Idaho's Blackfoot High School won a national "unit" award at the We The People national competition – out of 56 competitors.



The Blackfoot team was coached by teacher Holly Kartchner and Idaho State Bar and ACE member Lauren Murdoch

The “unit” questions that Blackfoot won:

1. In Federalist 70, Alexander Hamilton argues that “Energy in the Executive is a leading character in the definition of good government.” Do you agree or disagree? Why? What evidence can you offer to support your position?

- **How would you describe “energy” in the executive? What are its essential ingredients?**
- **How would you define a “feeble” executive? In what ways might a feeble executive be as dangerous as an overly energetic one? Why?**

2. “The Court has a role in the institutional politics of the nation, ...the members of the Court are political players themselves, and...the Court’s decisions can dramatically affect the nation’s political fate.” Do you agree or disagree with the opinion of a scholar expressed here? Why or why not? What evidence can you offer to support your position?

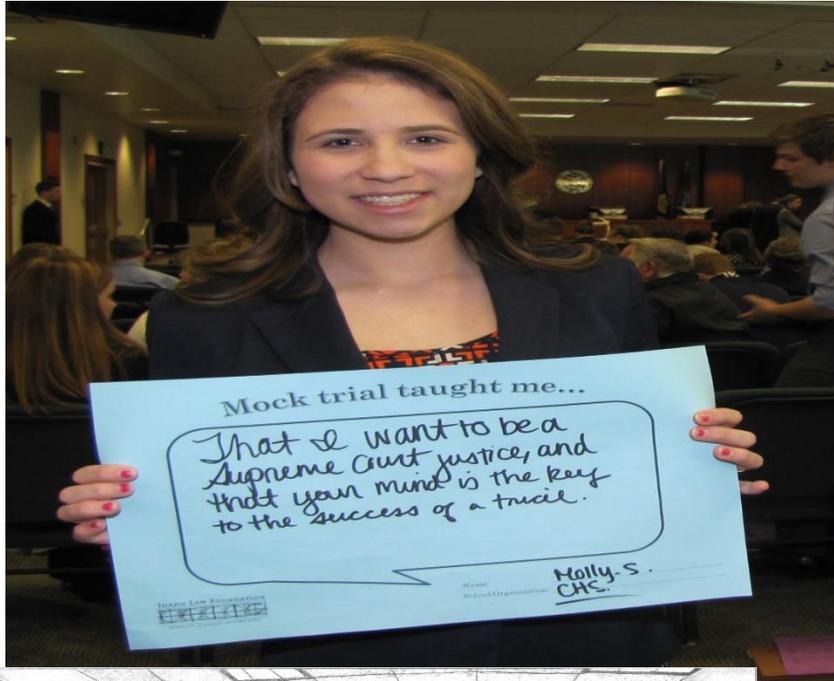
- **In what ways does the system of checks and balances limit the power of the Supreme Court? Are additional checks and/or balances needed? Why or why not?**
- **No institution other than the Supreme Court is asked to explain itself through written opinions. What purposes do written opinions serve and how important are they in a democratic society?**

A We The People simulated congressional hearing on Capitol Hill at the 2014 National Finals.



❖ Idaho Mock Trial

- http://www.isb.idaho.gov/ilf/lre/mock_trial.html
- Sponsored by the Law Related Education Program of the Idaho Law Foundation, teaches students in grades 9-12 about the law and the legal system by participating in a simulated trial.
- The ***Courtroom Artist Contest*** is open to students in grades 9 to 12, to allow artistically talented students the opportunity to participate in the mock trial program. Artists observe trials and submit sketches that depict actual courtroom scenes. Participants can be part of a team or enter on their own.
- The mock trial program needs attorneys and non-attorney community members to serve as coaches, judges, and competition support.





FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

For 77 years, the Treasure Valley Family YMCA Youth in Government program has engaged high school students across the great state of Idaho in an opportunity to obtain real life experience simulating and fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government.

Youth in Government program participants are actively immersed in civil engagement through developing skills in properly writing bills, parliamentary procedure, moot court competitions, lobbying, and even electing official officers which include the Governor, Chief Justice, Appellate Judge and more.

As school and YMCA groups compete and hold workshops at local Regional Conventions they work on preparing for the final State Convention held in Boise each year at the State Capital Building. Youth participants can earn awards, scholarships or even go on to participate nationally at the Conference of National Affairs representing all Idaho Youth in Government delegates.

GET INVOLVED

Volunteers- Advising support, judges, Moot Court competitions,
Regional conventions, and State Convention

School or YMCA group advisors

Co-group advisors

Sponsorship and much more!

COMMITMENT

Investment in the YMCA Youth in Government program can be given through a variety of ways including sponsorship, becoming an advisor or even volunteering at a convention. Your support helps to directly impact the lives of youth throughout Idaho and provide an invaluable opportunity through civil engagement.

Codi Cronin

Youth Coordinator

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaG3LFTnSCQ>

YOU ARE INVITED

**ACE PLANNING RETREAT
Thursday, September 10, 2020
4-6 Mountain Time**

**NEXT REGULAR ACE MEETING:
Thursday, October 8, 2020
Noon Mountain Time**

VIA Zoom

<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/94982987205>

Subsequent meetings – Second Thursday at noon MT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Attorneysforciviceducation.org