

LAWYERS IN THE CLASSROOM Q&A

Lawyers in the Classroom equips legal professionals with predesigned, experiential civics lessons and connects them with local classroom teachers. This is a meaningful—and perhaps joyful—way to educate about the rule of law and inspire the next generation of lawyers and judges.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Q. How do I register for the program?

A. Register for the program by writing to us at lawyersintheclassroom@courts.wa.gov. Please provide your name, preferred geographical area, and anything else you'd like to share.

Q. Does participating in Lawyers in the Classroom count for pro bono hours?

A. Yes! Your volunteer time can be logged as pro bono service hours. Visit the WSBA's [pro bono and public service webpage](#) to learn more.

Q. Does participating in Lawyers in the Classroom count for CLE credit?

A. No. CLE credit cannot be earned when participating in a program that is designed to educate the public.

OUTREACH

Q. How do we begin reaching out to schools?

A. Consider starting with a school you already have a connection with, whether by family, friends or geography, and reach out directly to offer to present a lesson, perhaps crafting a template for yourself to send an email to the principal of school, the school librarian, or a teacher you may already know (or know of).

Your template could include verbatim language from the [Lawyers in the Classroom webpage](#), so that the recipient knows you are offering to present standards-based [lessons](#) — which have been written by a team including judges, lawyers, and teachers — and that you are affiliated with an established program.

Your template could also briefly state that you can provide students with a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about the judicial system, to know more about the steps involved in becoming a lawyer, and what it's like to actually be one.

For even more specific suggestions, from Judges who have visited classrooms through the Judges in the Classroom Program, [view the recording of the WSBA-hosted Lawyers in the Classroom launch](#).

Q. Do schools typically prefer an ongoing presence (like a class by a semester) or a one-off session that is part of a larger curriculum?

A. Most visits are one-off sessions, which fit in with a particular unit, or day (e.g. Constitution Day).

Q. Do you present to a single classroom of 30 kids or is it more of an assembly set-up?

A. Presentations are usually to just one class.

Q. What topics do the lessons cover?

A. By clicking on the link for lessons (see [lessons](#)) you will see that they are organized by suggested grade band (K-12), as well as by topic (e.g., Consumer Law, Freedom of Speech, Contracts, the Court System), and within each topic are the relevant lesson plans (e.g., [Minors and Contracts](#)), which include a detailed, scripted, lesson plan, suggested opening remarks, a link to all necessary handouts (which the teacher can print in advance), and suggested time for each section of the presentation.

Q. How can I help review or add to the lessons?

A. Please help us update or otherwise revise lessons by sending an email to lawyersintheclassroom@courts.wa.gov, with the subject line: "Suggested Revisions to a Lesson Plan," and we will get back in touch with you.

Q. Is this program only for public schools? Can we reach out to private schools too?

A. This program is for both public and private schools.

Q. Can we partner with other lawyers to do this work?

A. Partnering with other lawyers is welcome! Feel free to reach out to an attorney you already know, and/or let us know you're interested, and we'll pair you with someone if the opportunity presents itself.