

## Join us for engaging and interactive civics programs for Grades 5 – 12

- We offer these programs at your school or virtually.
- Working with lawyers and judges, students learn about the legal system, analyzing facts, creating arguments, and listening to and respecting others.
- The programs are great fun, too!

### Mock Mini-Trials for Grades Five through Seven

For students in Grades Five through Seven, we offer three mini-mock trial programs:

1. *State of New Hampshire v. Brianna Hammond*. After refusing to leave a construction site where she is blocking construction vehicles from entering the site, 17-year-old high school student Brianna Hammond is arrested for trespassing. Ms. Hammond's defense to the criminal charge is that her actions were needed to stop the development of a solar power plant on land inhabited by New England cottontails, an endangered species of rabbit. Students will represent either the state or the defendant in a mini-trial that will demonstrate the difficulties encountered when important societal interests—in this case, the importance of developing clean sources of energy, concern for wildlife, and the need to respect the law—come into conflict.

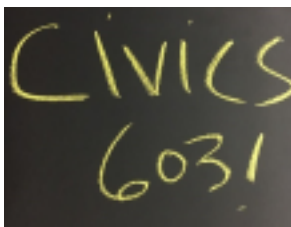


2. *Pero v. Doe Science Center*. An Abenaki family discovers that the Doe Science Center is exhibiting a headdress, an Abenaki ritual object, that they believe belonged to their family. When the science center, which arguably purchased the headdress in good faith, refuses to return the object to the family, the family brings a civil lawsuit for the return of the item. Students will represent the family or the science center in a mock mini-trial that highlights the difficulty in balancing arguably legitimate opposing interests and also provides a vehicle for discussing the ownership of cultural objects and historic and current issues faced by Indigenous People.



3. *Eric Roberts v. New Hope School District*. Eric Roberts sent a private Snapchat message to his friend about his upcoming birthday party that also contained an unflattering comment about another student (Noah) who was not going to receive a party invitation. Wanting to share information about the party, Eric's friend sent a screenshot of Eric's message to a fourth person and that message went "viral," causing Noah great distress. Thereafter, the school suspended Eric, and this suspension caused Eric to lose a scholarship to a prestigious summer space program. When Eric's family is unable to convince the school to remove the suspension, it brings a civil lawsuit against the school district, claiming that the suspension was not in

accord with the school's anti-bullying and social media policies and violated Eric's First Amendment right to freedom of speech. Students will represent Eric or the school district in a mock mini-trial that provides a basis for discussing cyberbullying, the pitfalls of social media, the First Amendment, and the balancing of individual rights.



## Mock Appellate Arguments for Grades Seven through Twelve

**For students in Grades Seven through Twelve, we offer three mock appellate programs:**

For grades 7 through 12, teachers may choose between two landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases involving important issues that touch on the student's daily lives: (1) *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District*, in which the Supreme Court held that students do not lose their First Amendment right to freedom of speech when they step onto school property and established some standards for regulating speech in public schools; and (2) *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, in which the Supreme Court held that the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures applies to public school officials and established the basic test for evaluating the propriety of school-based searches and seizures. Teachers of 11th and 12th grade students may also choose *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Inc. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, which raised the question of whether a bakeshop may decline to make a wedding cake for a gay couple.

**Students will travel to the New Hampshire Supreme Court to deliver their appellate arguments and will meet with a NH Supreme Court judge and other court staff.**



## Practical Law for High School Students

*State of New Hampshire v. Dube*. This is an interactive program designed to educate your students about the court system and the administration of justice in a criminal case. Through the use of a fictitious criminal case, a lawyer (and possibly a judge) will take your students through multiple stages of a criminal case: arrest, pretrial release, suppression, trial, and sentencing. Students will examine witnesses, make arguments for and against suppression, and make bail and sentencing arguments. The program was designed initially for three 50-minute classes but may be modified depending on the needs of your school. While the program was presented via Zoom in the spring of 2020, it can be presented live should your school desire.

Please contact Heather MacNeill at [heather.macneill@nhcivics.org](mailto:heather.macneill@nhcivics.org), for more information.



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