

**Dear Friend of the Constitution and Civics Education!**

We are pleased to invite you to be a member of one of our three-judge panels for our annual *We the People* Minnesota State Competition and Showcase on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul.



**We the People... the Citizen and the Constitution**  
*Simulated hearings on the U.S. Constitution*

**MINNESOTA STATE COMPETITION  
AND SHOWCASE**

Tuesday, December 7, 2010  
8:00 am – 1:00 pm (approximate)  
Minnesota State Capitol  
St. Paul, Minnesota

This competition is part of a national civics education program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education with funds from Congress that culminates with each state's top team participating in the National *We the People* Competition in Washington DC in the spring. Our organization, Learning Law and Democracy Foundation, directs the Minnesota We the People Program.

The *We the People* program began during the 1987 celebration of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution and annually involves thousands of students throughout the country. This year alone, over 200 additional Minnesota teachers received "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" curriculum materials to use with their students, touching the hearts and minds of well over 10,000 Minnesota students. You can learn more about this significant program at [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org).

Our Minnesota Competition and Showcase consists of teams of 3-8 students participating in a ten-minute mock congressional hearing with three-judge panels (with at least one experienced judge) serving as the "members of the congressional committee," asking the students questions that are provided to the judges.

Each hearing follows the same format:

**Four-minute opening statement:** Students answer one of the two unit questions (including the sub questions). This statement is prepared in advance, often written on note cards. The judges select the question they will ask during the morning orientation session.

**Six-minute follow-up questions:** Students answer additional judges' questions related to their opening statement. Judges are provided with suggested follow-up questions. Students may not use notes for this part.

**Feedback and Scoring:** Judges share comments with students and complete written evaluation forms for each team. Teams receive numerical scores.

**Orientation for judges will begin at 8:00 a.m.** (We will have rolls and coffee to get you started.) Each judge will be assigned to judge one or two units from the We the People textbook. Questions and suggested follow-up questions are provided. To review the questions the students are studying for this event, please see our website at [www.civicallyspeaking.org](http://www.civicallyspeaking.org). If you prefer to judge a particular unit, please let us know. If you don't have a preferred unit, we will assign you one.

The student hearings will begin at approximately 8:45. There will be a short awards ceremony which you are welcome to attend at the end of the hearings, sometime early afternoon. Lunch will be provided.

We hope you will be able to serve as a judge and experience this exciting educational program. **The easiest way to respond to our invitation is to go to [www.civicallyspeaking.org](http://www.civicallyspeaking.org) and click on the Judge Response Form which will connect you to an online registration form. If this is not possible, please complete the attached response form and fax it to us at 651-774-0045.**

If you are able to join us, your unit assignment, the two major questions with suggested follow-up questions (follow-up questions not available on the website), and a copy of the student text (if requested) will be sent to you along with a parking pass and more detailed information.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. You can reach us by email at [jbloom@civicallyspeaking.org](mailto:jbloom@civicallyspeaking.org) or phone at 651-772-4276. Thank you very much for considering our request. Hope to see you on December 7th.

Warmly,

Jennifer Bloom  
Executive Director  
Learning Law and Democracy Foundation

Mary Jo McGuire  
Associate Director  
Learning Law and Democracy Foundation