

*Federal Bar Council*



THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. KATZMANN  
**JUSTICE FOR ALL**  
COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE  
The Civic Education Project of the Federal Courts of the Second Circuit



## **Introduction to Law: The Constitution Unlocked—Thinking Like a Lawyer**

This 12-session elective, taught by federal judges and practicing lawyers, will expose students to a range of exciting and relevant legal topics, and will help students to develop their public speaking and advocacy skills through preparation for a moot court competition. The elective will be held on Thursdays from 5:00 p.m.—6:15 p.m. at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse (40 Foley Square) in downtown Manhattan, beginning on January 30, 2025 (no class on February 20, 2025, April 10, 2025, or April 17, 2025). One session will include a field trip to a law firm. Family members are invited to attend the final session on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at the federal courthouse to watch the students participate in a moot court competition.

A sampling of topics that will be covered throughout the elective include: the First Amendment and student speech, the Fifth Amendment and student privacy, the Constitution and national security, and improving fairness in the criminal justice system. A full agenda for the program is attached.

Students will have the opportunity to meet and speak with federal judges and practicing lawyers during the sessions and learn about careers in the law.

Students who are interested in participating should fill out the registration form, linked [here](#). There is limited capacity in this free program and spaces will be offered on a first-come first-served basis.

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## Introduction to Law: The Constitution Unlocked—Thinking Like a Lawyer

<b>CLASS ONE:</b> January 30, 2025	<b>INSIDE THE FEDERAL COURTS:</b> Behind the Scenes Look at the Federal Court System (Discussion)
<b>CLASS TWO:</b> February 6, 2025	<b>WINNING AN ARGUMENT:</b> The Art of Public Speaking and Debate (Instruction)
<b>CLASS THREE:</b> February 13, 2025	<b>THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE:</b> Defending the Accused in a Federal Criminal Case (Discussion)
<b>CLASS FOUR:</b> February 27, 2025	<b>THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE:</b> Investigating and Prosecuting a Federal Criminal Case (Discussion)
<b>CLASS FIVE:</b> March 6, 2025	<b>THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE LAND:</b> Making Appellate Legal Arguments (Instruction)
<b>CLASS SIX:</b> March 13, 2025	<b>THE CONSTITUTION INSIDE THE SCHOOLHOUSE DOORS:</b> First Amendment and Free Speech (Discussion)
<b>CLASS SEVEN:</b> March 20, 2025	<b>FROM THE NFL GRIDIRON TO THE COURTROOM:</b> Achieving Your Dreams (Discussion)
<b>CLASS EIGHT:</b> March 27, 2025	<b>STARTING LIFE AGAIN:</b> Exoneration After Wrongful Conviction for Rape and Murder (Discussion)
<b>CLASS NINE:</b> April 3, 2025	<b>MAHANOEY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT v. B.L.:</b> Moot Court Competition Prep (Instruction)
<b>CLASS TEN:</b> April 10, 2025	<b>THE THREAT OF TERRORISM:</b> Balancing Civil Liberties and National Security (Discussion)
<b>CLASS ELEVEN:</b> April 24, 2025	<b>FIELD TRIP:</b> Exploring the World of Big Law (Visit to NYC Law Firm)
<b>CLASS TWELVE:</b> May 1, 2025	<b>COMPETITION &amp; RECEPTION</b>

### Speakers & Instructors Include:

United States Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco

United States Circuit Judge Myrna Pérez

United States District Judge John P. Cronan  
(prosecutor in the investigation and prosecution of Faisal Shahzad in connection with the 2010 attempted car bombing in Times Square)

United States Magistrate Judge Marcia M. Henry

Federal Defender Deirdre von Dornum  
(defense counsel in the appeal by Dzhokar Tsarnaev for his convictions and death sentence in connection with the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing)

Former Federal Prosecutor Alison Moe  
(prosecutor in the investigation and prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell)

Former Federal Prosecutor Maria Cruz Melendez  
(prosecutor in the investigation and prosecution of R. Kelly)

Former NFL Football Player and Big Law Attorney Michael Catapano

*Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District (1969)* Plaintiff Mary Beth Tinker

Jeffrey Deskovic  
(founder of the Deskovic Foundation)

Nicole Maffei  
(Director of Civics Education for the Supreme Court Historical Society)