

VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT

Lawyers in the Classroom

LAW DAY | CONSTITUTION DAY 2026

What's in this toolkit:

- A thank-you and overview of what you've signed up for
- [Step 1: Choose your grade level](#)
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- [Step 3: Reach out](#) — email templates, a principal/front office version, and a voicemail script
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Questions? Contact the Lawyers in the Classroom program team at lawyersintheclassroom@courts.wa.gov or reach the WSBA Ambassadors team at ambassadors@wsba.org.

Thank you for raising your hand

On the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, Washington's legal community has set an ambitious goal: 3,500 licensed legal professionals in classrooms across the state on or around Constitution Day, September 17. One for nearly every public, private, and tribal K-12 school in Washington. You are part of that movement.

You've done something meaningful. You've pledged to show up for a student who may never have met a legal professional before or realized there are people in their local legal system who care for them. That matters more than you might realize.

The Lawyers in the Classroom Program makes it as easy as possible to find and connect with a teacher then plan your lesson. You'll arrive with a ready-made, age-appropriate lesson in hand, a cleared background check, and the backing of both the Washington Supreme Court and the Washington State Bar Association. Teachers don't need to prepare anything. You just need to show up.

These lessons fit in at any time during the 2026/2027 school year, so if Constitution Day proves a challenge to schedule around, don't hesitate to expand the presentation horizon to the whole school year. The important thing is to connect with students in a classroom — every day is a good day to teach about the Constitution!

This toolkit will walk you through everything you need to go from "I pledged" to "I'm in a classroom." It won't take long. Let's get started.

Step 1: Choose your grade level

The Lawyers in the Classroom program offers lessons for every grade band from kindergarten through 12th grade. Before you reach out to a school, it helps to have a sense of the age group you'd most like to work with and what kind of conversation to expect in the room.

There's no wrong answer here. Think about what excites you: The wonder of a third grader learning what a judge does for the first time, the spark of a middle school student making the connection between a constitutional right and something that happened to them last week, or the sharpness of a high school student who wants to debate the limits of free speech? Any of those is a great classroom to walk into.

ELEMENTARY Grades K-5

What is the Constitution, and what does a lawyer do?

Young students are ready to be introduced to big ideas in accessible, concrete terms. At this level, the goal is simple: Help kids understand that the Constitution is a set of promises our country made to everyone who lives here — promises about fairness, rights, and being treated equally. You are also a living example that lawyers are real people in their community who work to make those promises real. Expect lots of questions, enthusiastic participation, and students who will remember you came.

SUGGESTED LESSONS:

- Constitution Day: Outline for Talks to Large Groups or Assemblies
- Rights and Responsibilities / Rules and Laws
- Encouraging students to consider a career in law
- Mock trial simulations — simplified roles for younger students
- Rules of the Game (why rules matter, connects to rule of law), weights and measures lesson (fairness/government role)

MIDDLE SCHOOL Grades 6-8

Why does the Constitution matter to me, right now?

Middle schoolers are old enough to connect constitutional principles to their own lives, and they're at exactly the age when civic identity starts to form. This is a powerful moment to make the Constitution feel personal and relevant. Students at this level respond well to scenarios, debates, and real-world examples. Think: "what rights do you actually have at school?" or "what happens when someone breaks a rule and nobody holds them accountable?" Your goal is to move them from abstract civics to a felt sense of why the rule of law affects them every day.

SUGGESTED LESSONS:

- Introduction to the Bill of Rights
- Rights and Responsibilities / Rules and Laws
- Freedom of Speech lessons
- Mock trial simulations — students take on attorney and witness roles
- No Vehicles in the Park: statutory interpretation exercise
- Preamble comparison lesson (state vs. federal constitutions), Bill of Rights origins lesson, mock Constitutional Convention

HIGH SCHOOL Grades 9-12

Democracy, the judicial branch, and why the rule of law belongs to everyone.

High school students are ready for nuance, debate, and direct engagement with the tensions in our legal system. This is your opportunity to discuss why an independent judiciary matters, what happens when government power goes unchecked, and how the Constitution's promise has been fought for — and in some cases still is — by real people. These students are close to voting age. Many are already forming opinions about courts, lawyers, and the legal system. You have the chance to complicate those opinions in the best possible way: with honesty, your own experience, and a genuine invitation to see themselves as future participants in democracy.

SUGGESTED LESSONS:

- The Trial Process / Theft Mock Trial
- No Vehicles in the Park: statutory interpretation and constitutional reasoning
- Freedom of Speech and civil liberties lessons
- Consumer Law, Contracts, and Court System topics (organized by topic at www.courts.wa.gov)
- Tips and judging for debate, civic, and mock-trial competitions
- Back to the Future of the Bill of Rights, Commerce Clause cases, borderline democracies exercise, amending the Constitution mock convention

Not sure which grade level to choose?

Start with what feels most natural. If you work with contracts and business law, a high school class on consumer law or statutory interpretation might be a great fit. If you do family law, a middle school lesson on rights and responsibilities might resonate. You can also let the teacher lead; once you're in contact, ask what their students are working on and browse the lesson library together at www.courts.wa.gov/education/lawyers.

Browse the full lesson library organized by grade band and topic at:

- www.courts.wa.gov/education/?fa=education.lessons
- www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/programs/constitution_day/25-great-lesson-plans-/
- www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org/constitutionday/preamble-challenge-toolkit/

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Step 2: Find a School Near You

Start with schools closest to you, situated in the community where you live, work, or have some connection. A personal tie, even a loose one, makes outreach easier and increases your chances of a response. Below are three ways to identify schools in your area, depending on how much you already know.

Method A: Google Search

A Google search is the fastest way to find schools near any address. This is a good starting point if you don't know your school district or want a quick visual map of what's nearby.

How to do it:

- Open Google ([google.com](https://www.google.com)) in your browser.
- In the search bar, type one of the following (replace with your own city, neighborhood, or zip code):
 - “elementary schools near [your city or zip code]”
 - “middle schools near [your neighborhood]”
 - “high schools in [your city]”
- Google will show a map and a list of nearby schools with names, addresses, and in some cases websites and phone numbers.
- Click on a school's name to see its Google profile, which often includes a link to the school website, where you can find the principal's name and a general contact email.
- Once you have a school's website, look for a “Staff Directory,” “Contact Us,” or “Administration” page to find the principal's name and email, or a general front office contact.

Tip: If you'd rather walk in the door first, the school's address from Google Maps is all you need. A brief in-person introduction at the front office — especially if you're dropping off a goodie basket — is often more effective than a cold email.

Method B: Redfin School Search

Redfin is a real estate website that includes a school search tool. It's useful if you want to browse schools in a specific neighborhood visually on a map, or if you want to see grade ratings and district information at a glance.

How to do it:

- Go to [redfin.com](https://www.redfin.com) in your browser.
 - In the search bar at the top, type your city, neighborhood, or zip code and press Enter.
 - On the map or results page, look for a “Schools” tab or filter. (It may appear in the navigation or as a layer option on the map.)
 - Click “Schools” to see pins on the map for nearby schools. You can filter by type: Elementary, Middle, or High School.
 - Click on any school pin to see its name, grade range, and a link to the school's website for contact information.
 - From the school's website, navigate to the “Staff Directory” or “Contact Us” page to find the principal or front office contact.
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Method C: OSPI School Report Card

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) maintains an official statewide database of all public K-12 schools. This is the most comprehensive option — use it if you know your school district by name, want to browse all schools in a city or county, or want to find tribal or alternative schools that may not show up in a Google search.

How to do it:

- Go to reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us in your browser.
- On the homepage, you'll see a search bar. You can search by:
 - School name (if you already have one in mind)
 - District name (e.g., "Seattle Public Schools," "Spokane Public Schools")
 - City or county
- Type your search term and press Enter or click the search icon.
- A list of matching schools will appear. Each result shows the school's name, district, grade levels served, and location.
- Click on a school's name to open its Report Card page, which includes the school's address and a link to the school's own website.
- From the school website, look for "Staff Directory," "Administration," or "Contact Us" to find the principal's name and contact information.

If you're not sure which district covers your area, OSPI's site also has a district directory at ospi.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/about-school-districts/websites-and-contact-info.

Private and tribal schools

The OSPI Report Card covers public schools only. For private and tribal schools, Google Search (Method A) is your best bet. The Lawyers in the Classroom program is open to both public and private K-12 schools.

Once you have a school in mind

Before reaching out, take two minutes to jot down:

- The school's name and grade levels.
- The principal's name and email (or a general front office contact).
- Any personal connection you have, even a thin one ("I drive past this school every day," "my firm is two blocks away").
- One or two lesson topics from the library you'd be comfortable teaching.

That's all you need. The outreach templates provided in the next section will help make the connection.

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Step 3: Reach out to the school

Three templates are included below for different situations. Fill in the bracketed fields with your own information before sending. The more personal detail you can add — a genuine connection to the school, a lesson topic you're excited about — the better your response rate will be.

- [Version 1](#): Email to a teacher directly
- [Version 2](#): Email to a principal or front office
- [Version 3](#): Voicemail / phone script

Questions? Contact the Lawyers in the Classroom program team at lawyersintheclassroom@courts.wa.gov.

Version 1: Email to a Teacher

Use this when you have a specific teacher's contact information, or when a school has connected you directly with a teacher.

SUBJECT LINE:

Volunteer Offer: Lawyers in the Classroom — Constitution Day visit for [School Name]

EMAIL BODY:

Hi [Teacher's Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I'm a licensed attorney based in [City/Region]. [Optional: one sentence personal connection — e.g., "My kids go to school here," "I grew up in this neighborhood," or skip if none applies.]

I'm reaching out as part of a statewide initiative launched by the Washington Supreme Court and Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) this Law Day. I've pledged to connect with and visit a K-12 classroom on or around Constitution Day, September 17 — and [School Name] came to mind.

Through the Lawyers in the Classroom Program, I'd be glad to come to your class and deliver a ready-made, age-appropriate civics lesson at no cost to you or your school. The lessons are predesigned and standards-aligned — no extra prep required on your end. Visits fit a single class period and can work around your existing curriculum.

A few Constitution Day options (and year-round topics) available:

- Constitution Day overview for any grade level
- Rights and responsibilities / Rules and laws
- Introduction to the Bill of Rights
- Mock trial simulations — students play attorneys, witnesses, judge, and jury

Browse the full lesson library at www.courts.wa.gov/education/lawyers.

If this sounds useful, I'd love to hear from you. And if September 17 is a tough fit, visits can happen any time during the school year — every day is a good day to talk about the Constitution.

Thanks for all you do. I hope we get a chance to work together.

[Your Name]

[Title / Firm, optional]

[Phone or email]

Tip: If you're delivering a goodie basket

Add this line after the opening paragraph: "I would love to introduce myself and drop off a small goodie basket for your teachers and staff in the coming days — just a small gesture of appreciation ahead of fall. Please let me know how to best coordinate that delivery."

Version 2: Email to a Principal or Front Office

Use this when you don't have a specific teacher's contact, or when reaching out to a school cold. Slightly more formal — leads with the program's institutional backing.

SUBJECT LINE:

Lawyers in the Classroom — Constitution Day partnership for [School Name]

EMAIL BODY:

Hi [Principal's Name / "there"],

My name is [Your Name], and I'm a licensed attorney based in [City/Region]. I'm writing to introduce a program that may be a useful resource for your school this fall — and to offer my own participation directly.

On Law Day, May 1, the Washington Supreme Court and Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) launched a statewide initiative asking legal professionals to pledge to connect with and visit a K-12 classroom on or around Constitution Day, September 17, 2026. I took that pledge, and [School Name] is a school I'd be glad to connect with.

The Lawyers in the Classroom Program — a joint effort of the Washington Courts and the Washington State Bar Association — provides schools with trained legal volunteers who come prepared with scripted, standards-aligned civics lessons at no cost. Volunteers also come prepared with lessons and materials in hand. It's designed to be easy for teachers: no extra prep, no coordination burden.

I'd welcome the chance to get connected with a teacher whose class might be a good fit, whether for Constitution Day or another point in the school year. Please feel free to share this note with any additional teachers who might be interested and/or encourage them to reach out directly to the Lawyers in the Classroom program at lawyersintheclassroom@courts.wa.gov. The more classrooms we can connect with, the better!

Thank you for your time, and I hope to hear from you.

[Your Name]

[Title / Firm, optional]

[Phone or email]

Version 3: Voicemail / Phone Script

Use this before or after sending an email — a voice touchpoint can move things along, especially at smaller schools. Its only job is to not get deleted and prime the email that follows.

SCRIPT:

“Hi, my name is [Your Name] — I’m a licensed attorney based in [City/Region], and I’m calling for [Principal’s Name / Teacher’s Name] if they’re available.

I’m reaching out about a program called Lawyers in the Classroom — it’s a joint effort of the Washington Courts and the Washington State Bar Association, and I’ve signed up to visit a K-12 classroom on or around Constitution Day this September.

I’d love to connect [School Name] with a free, ready-made civics lesson — everything is prepared in advance, no extra work on the teacher’s end.

I’ll follow up with an email as well, but please feel free to reach me at [your phone number], or you can contact the program directly at lawyersintheclassroom — all one word — at courts dot wa dot gov.

Thanks so much, and I hope to connect with you soon.”

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Step 4: Spread the word

You showed up for a classroom. Now let your network know.

Sharing your experience on social media does more than document a good moment — it signals to colleagues, friends, and fellow legal professionals that this is something worth doing. Every post is a nudge to someone who hasn't taken the pledge yet.

Below are a few ready-to-use social media posts you can copy and paste directly or use as a jumping-off point to write something in your own voice. The most effective posts are the ones that sound like you. Please be aware that photos of students are generally off-limits without explicit parental permission.

A few easy ways to participate:

- **Snap a photo at your school drop-off** or classroom visit and share it with your post. Include a selfie, feature adult education staff (with permission; no students), and/or a printed copy of the "I Took the Pledge!" badge (linked to below).
- **Download your "I Took the Pledge!" badge** [\[link\]](#) and share it on LinkedIn, Instagram, or Facebook — no photo required, no school visit needed yet. Just a public declaration that you're in.
- **Tag your posts** with the campaign hashtags so we can find and amplify your voice statewide.

Suggested social media copy for LinkedIn

Today I made a quick stop at [School Name] — dropping off a goodie basket for the teachers as a first hello ahead of Constitution Day this fall.

On Law Day, I joined hundreds and hundreds of legal professionals across Washington in pledging to connect with and visit a K-12 classroom on or around September 17, 2026. It's a small act with a big idea behind it: on the 250th anniversary of our founding, the next chapter of this democracy belongs to these kids.

Washington's legal community has set an ambitious goal — 3,500 licensed legal professionals in classrooms across the state on Constitution Day. One for nearly every public, private, and tribal K-12 school in Washington. If you haven't taken the pledge yet, I'd love for you to join me.

The Lawyers in the Classroom program makes it easy — predesigned, age-appropriate civics lessons ready to go, plus resources to help you make your first school connection. The resources are ready. The kids are worth it.

www.wsba.org/about-wsba/ambassadors/law-day

Questions? Email ambassadors@wsba.org.

#WSBALawDay2026 #LawDay #ConstitutionDay #LawyersInTheClassroom #RuleOfLawAmbassador #YourDemocracyYourFuture #WashingtonLawyers #CivicsEducation them. Lawyers — who's joining? Take the pledge → wsba.org

Suggested social media copy for Facebook & Instagram

Dropped off a little something at [School Name] today — treats for the teachers and a heads-up that a lawyer is coming to class this fall. I took the pledge to be in a Washington classroom on Constitution Day, September 17. The next 250 years belong to these kids. I want them to know the law is theirs. Who else is in? **Take the pledge → wsba.org**

#WSBALawDay2026 #LawDay #ConstitutionDay #LawyersInTheClassroom #RuleOfLawAmbassador #YourDemocracyYourFuture #WashingtonLawyers #CivicsEducation

I took the Law Day pledge. On Constitution Day, Sept. 17, I'll be in a Washington classroom — part of a statewide effort by the Washington Supreme Court and WSBA to bring the Constitution to life for the next generation. Let's inspire the future leaders of our democracy together. **Join me → wsba.org**

#WSBALawDay2026 #LawDay #ConstitutionDay #LawyersInTheClassroom #RuleOfLawAmbassador #YourDemocracyYourFuture #WashingtonLawyers #CivicsEducation

Pledge taken. See you in a classroom on Sept. 17. Our students deserve to know the law belongs to them. Lawyers — who's joining? **Take the pledge → wsba.org**

#WSBALawDay2026 #LawDay #ConstitutionDay #LawyersInTheClassroom #RuleOfLawAmbassador #YourDemocracyYourFuture #WashingtonLawyers #CivicsEducation

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Step 5: You've found a teacher! What's next?

Hooray! You have a date to engage with students and bring the nation's founding document to life for the next generation of leaders. Now it's time to prepare to be in the classroom. There are two main considerations in the months before Constitution Day:

- **Make sure you fill out the school's volunteer application for the 2026/27 school year.** Ask the teacher or school contact that you are visiting to refer you to the school's volunteer application. Usually this is an online form that asks you to agree to a volunteer code of conduct and requires information so the district can run a simple background check to clear you to work with students. Be aware that the application may need to be filled out closer to the start of the next school year when volunteer clearances are renewed for the 2026/27 school year, and the approval process can take several weeks.
- **Get ready to engage!** You have already perused the Lawyer in the Classroom lesson plans, and perhaps you have even agreed upon a topic with the teacher or school you are visiting. Keep in mind that one of the most important parts of the lesson is you; lawyers and judges say that there is no limit to the students' curiosity—and questions—about what it is like to work in the legal profession.

Between now and September, the Lawyers in the Classroom program and WSBA will be releasing additional resources — including guidance on selecting a lesson plan and making it relevant, interactive, and engaging for your specific classroom. Stay tuned!

Quick Reference: Key contacts and links to have on hand

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Lawyers in the Classroom (AOC): lawyersintheclassroom@courts.wa.gov

WSBA Ambassadors team: ambassadors@wsba.org

Pledge page: wsba.org/about-wsba/ambassadors/law-day

SCHOOL SEARCH TOOLS

Google: [google.com](https://www.google.com) — search “elementary/middle/high schools near [your zip code]”

Redfin: [redfin.com](https://www.redfin.com) — search your area and filter by Schools layer on the map

OSPI Report Card: reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us — search by school name, district, city, or county

OSPI District Directory: ospi.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/about-school-districts/websites-and-contact-info

LESSON LIBRARY

Browse by grade band and topic: www.courts.wa.gov/education/lawyers

Full lesson index: www.courts.wa.gov/education/?fa=education.lessons, www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/programs/constitution_day/25-great-lesson-plans/, or www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org/constitutionday/preamble-challenge-toolkit/

Materials to print before your drop-off or visit

- Lawyers in the Classroom Fact Sheet (for you) — complete your contact info on page 2 [\[link\]](#)
- Lawyers in the Classroom Fact Sheet for Educators — leave copies for school staff [\[link\]](#)
- FAQ from the Courts — helpful for teachers with questions [\[link\]](#)
- “I Took the Pledge!” badge [\[link\]](#) - optional, prop for your goodie basket social post

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