

2024-2025 LAW LESSONS

Bill of Rights: Students will gain a better understanding of the Bill of Rights, specifically the first eight amendments. They will get to test their knowledge of the amendments by playing “Name the Amendment.” See if rights were violated through different scenarios. At the end of the lesson there’s a “Bar Exam” for students to take! Grade level: 4-5.

Business crimes: Analyze the trials and tribulations of Brian, a college student who jeopardizes his future career (and liberty) as he embarks on a one-man crime spree. Become a district attorney for the day as you apply the elements of such business crimes as embezzlement, shoplifting, and mail fraud to Brian's conduct. Grade level: 8-12.

Civil procedure: Using the “Case of the Library Cat,” students follow the progression of a civil lawsuit from the complaint through the appeal. Selected students craft and present closing arguments to the remainder of their tour group, the members of which serve as the jury. Grade level: 4-12.

Contracts: From buying your first car to acquiring your first company, Americans’ lives are governed by the law of contracts. During this lesson, students will learn about the requirements for an enforceable contract and the remedies available for breach of contract. Grade level: 9-12.

Copyright 101: The world of copyright law is a complex and confusing one. In this session, students are introduced to an analytical framework which will make this world easier to understand. They will explore the basis for copyright, the difference between authorship and ownership, and what constitutes an “original work” by analyzing a variety of engaging hypotheticals. Grade level: 6-12.

Copyright 102: [Prerequisite: Copyright 101] In this rocking-‘n’-rolling session, students will briefly review the analytical framework introduced in Copyright Law 101 before focusing their attention on the issues of infringement and fair use, using a variety of engaging musical hypotheticals. Grade level: 6-12.

Criminal and civil law: Students learn the major differences between criminal law and civil law and then look at some of the different categories of crime in Georgia, including crimes against a person and crimes against property. At the close of the session, they take a short “Bar Exam” to test their ability to differentiate between criminal and civil cases. Grade level: 4-12.

Cruel and unusual punishment: Botched executions have made headlines recently, leading to robust debate on both sides of the death penalty question. How do these current events fit within the broader issue of what constitutes cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment? In this session, students explore how the constitutional guarantee against cruel and unusual punishment has been applied from the 1870s to the present. Grade level: 8-12.

Delinquency and unruliness, including the deadly sins: Students learn the differences between delinquent and unruly behavior, as well as those behaviors which

can subject them to the adult criminal justice system (the “deadly sins”). In this session, students learn the elements of each of the ten deadly sins and the consequences of engaging in delinquent or unruly behavior. Because four of the ten deadly sins are sex-based offenses, we recommend that parents sign a special permission slip, a draft of which is available from the LRE Program. Grade level: 8-12.

Environmental law: This lesson uses the “Case of the Dirty Drycleaner” to teach students about the basic provisions of the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Grade level: 9-12.

Freedom of speech: One of our most treasured constitutional rights is the right to freedom of speech, yet there are a number of popular misconceptions about this right. During this lesson, students learn about the different forms of protected speech and the circumstances under which free speech may be lawfully restricted. Students test their knowledge by exploring a variety of hypothetical situations. Grade level: 4-12.

Freedom of speech (government speech doctrine): Same as freedom of speech lesson, with additional focus on the application of the government speech doctrine in the Confederate flag license plate case, Walker v. Texas Div., Sons of Confederate Veterans (2015). Grade level: 8-12.

Search and seizure: Both U.S. History and American Government/Civics students need to understand our constitutional rights. In times like these, when domestic terrorism seems to confront us at every turn, rights such as those guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment are at risk. This lesson provides an overview of the basic principles governing our right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. Grade level: 8-12.

School search and seizure: After a brief review of the general principles governing searches and seizures under the Fourth Amendment (search, governmental involvement, probable cause, and search warrant), students learn how those principles change when applied in a public school setting. Grade level: 8-12.

School search and seizure (cell phones): Same as school search and seizure lesson, with additional focus on hypotheticals involving searches of cell phones. Grade level: 8-12.

Student technology use and the law: This lesson prepares students for some of the perils they face online. Through the “Case of Jessica and Ryan,” students will delve into the darker side of technology: sexting, social media profiles, cyberbullying, and computer crime. They will also explore the free speech implications of their online postings. Grade level: 8-12.

Torts: It is an unfortunate aspect of American life, but regardless of their ultimate career path, every student is likely to become involved in a civil lawsuit at some point in their life. During this lesson, students learn about the different types of torts against the person and against property. Students test their knowledge by exploring a variety of hypothetical situations. Grade level: 8-12.

Torts for healthcare science students: Same as torts lesson, with additional emphasis on healthcare-based hypotheticals. Grade level: 9-12.

Understanding Miranda v. Arizona: Everyone knows the words: “You have the right to remain silent . . .” But how well do you actually understand the Supreme Court’s Miranda decision? In this lesson, students will discuss recent Supreme Court rulings regarding the Miranda warnings and, through the use of hypotheticals, will learn how to apply Miranda to new fact patterns. Grade level: 9-12.