

# VOLUNTEER WITH



## DISCOVERING JUSTICE



### STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS



**Stand Up for Your Rights** transforms middle school students into appellate lawyers. Working with a team of attorney volunteers for 11 weeks, students delve into the Bill of Rights, explore how constitutional protections apply in public school, and come to understand the complexities of balancing the rights of individuals with the safety and welfare needs of communities. The program concludes with students arguing before an Appellate Panel (one judge and two senior attorneys) in a real courtroom.

#### WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW LONG DO CLASSES MEET?

Students and attorneys meet once a week during the spring semester for 60-to-90-minute sessions after school at a law office, afterschool site, or on occasion, participating school. Over an 11-week period, there are nine classroom sessions and one field trip to a courthouse followed by a culminating event during which students present oral arguments in a real courtroom before an Appellate Panel. The sessions are scheduled at times that are convenient for the schools, students, and attorney volunteers.

#### WHO TEACHES THE CLASSES?

A team of attorneys teaches a team of students. Typically, the legal team is made up of three or four attorneys, one of whom serves as the lead teacher and primary contact. We recognize that scheduling conflicts arise on occasion and not all volunteer attorneys must be present every week.

#### WHAT ARE THE DETAILS OF THE CULMINATING EVENT?

The culminating event will be held at a courthouse in the students' community at the end of each semester. The students and attorneys arrive an hour before the oral arguments to practice one last time. Each team argues in a real courtroom before an Appellate Panel and an audience of community members. Following the arguments, everyone is invited to enjoy a pizza reception.

#### IS THERE TRAINING FOR THE VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS?

Prior to the start of the semester, volunteer attorneys attend a training (typically two hours), where they receive a Teaching Manual, which includes the curriculum, case details, tips and strategies, and all necessary class materials, i.e. student handouts. Discovering Justice staff is always available to answer questions, provide assistance, and offer ongoing resources throughout the semester.



For more information about **Stand Up for Your Rights**, contact MJ Bastien at 617.748.9641 or [mjbastien@discoveringjustice.org](mailto:mjbastien@discoveringjustice.org).