

## In This Issue

[Mock Trial](#)

[Indiana Free Legal Answers](#)

[We the People](#)

[McKinney Endowment Awards Dinner](#)

## Quick Links

[Homepage](#)

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Annual Report](#)

[Civic Health Index](#)

## H.S. Mock Trial Volunteers Needed

[Volunteer](#) for any of the three Indiana High School Mock Trial regionals in February or the state competition in March. Dates and locations can be found [here](#).

## Indiana Free Legal Answers

Pro bono opportunities anytime, anywhere with Indiana Free Legal Answers. Visit [in.freelegalanswers.org](http://in.freelegalanswers.org) and register as a pro bono attorney to answer legal questions from low-income Hoosiers. Contact [Marilyn Smith](#) for more information.

## We the People State Finals Results



**Fishers High School** and **Fishers Jr. High** both won their respective state competitions after three rounds of hearings at the high school competition and two rounds at the middle school competition.

More than 70 judges from across the state volunteered over the three days to evaluate the students' knowledge of the material, presentation and critical thinking skills. They were [inspired](#) by the students' hard work and perseverance under what was intense pressure for some. Both schools will now compete at the national finals and national invitational this spring.

If you would like to [donate](#) to help them succeed, you may do so by contributing to the national teams' funds. Our goal is \$25,000 to help not only these top teams but also the winner of the Indiana High School Mock Trial program in March. Their national finals are in Reno, Nevada in May.

Congratulations are also extended to **Cathedral** (2nd) and **Hamilton Southeastern** (3rd) high schools as well as the middle school teams: **Brown County Jr. High** (2nd) and Fort Wayne's **Woodside Middle School** (3rd). More than 600 Indiana students experienced the thrill of competition and learned that adults care what they think about the world, history, government and current events. There were 28 teams participating, with *six new schools* competing this year! We've included **Castle High School**, Newburgh, as a new school because it is returning after a ten-year hiatus. Welcome back Castle!

Our thanks to the four Indiana Supreme Court justices who participated in various parts of the civic education program from judging to speaking. It's an honor to have you present at the Foundation's educational programs.

## McKinney Endowment Announced; \$10,000 Match for Donations

The board and staff wish to continue the inspiring legacy of the late Hon. Larry McKinney by establishing an endowment in his honor to aid civic education in Indiana. After consulting with Judge McKinney's family and law clerk, the Foundation's president, Kenneth J. Allen, announced the endowment at the December 10 awards dinner. This

[story](#) by the Indiana Lawyer highlights the fund. Memorial donations previously made in Judge McKinney's honor will be matched, and the board is optimistic the Fund can rise to the \$20,000 goal quickly. With the match, the fund currently totals \$11,250.

To make a donation, you may [give online](#) or mail a check. Gifts of real estate or securities are permitted as well. Contact [staff](#) for details. Please indicate "McKinney" on your donation to designate it to this legacy fund.

### ***We the People* Teacher Honored at Awards Dinner**



The Foundation's director of civic education programs said this about Drew Horvath's selection for the John Patrick Civic Education Award:

"When I was a first-year teacher, Drew found out that I was going to implement the *We the People* program. He invited me to his house *every Sunday afternoon* for a crash course in the program. In the midst of balancing his own busy schedule as a husband, father, and an outstanding teacher at Lawrence

Central, Drew took time out of his Sundays each week to help me. I know I'm not the only teacher out there who Drew took under his wing."

Read more about the new Fellows class and the other award winners honored [here](#).

### **Educating Tomorrow's Leaders. Expanding Civil Justice. Aiding the Profession. *All Thanks to You!***

The low-income Hoosiers who are seeking free legal services, students, and teachers who benefit from your aid – volunteering or donating – are grateful you have contributed. The growth in civic education and the progress in delivering legal aid to Hoosiers in need has been tremendous in 2017. The next 12 months will deliver even more. It's all thanks to you. Whether you donate or volunteer, *you are making a difference*.

Here's what two students who competed at the *We the People* State Finals this year shared:

*"This has been my school's first opportunity to compete, and it has been a wonderful experience. I've learned a lot about our government and really improved my public speaking skills."*

– Brittony, Heritage High School (Monroeville)

*"I've learned so much about the underlying principles behind the Constitution ... I don't think I would have learned about important documents like the Northwest Ordinance and the Magna Carta any other way."*

– Drake, Cathedral High School (Indianapolis)

[Donate Now](#)