



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

August 30, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Rule of Law Project

I am pleased to announce that the Virginia Law Foundation (VLF) and the Virginia Bar Association (VBA) will sponsor the annual VLF/VBA Rule of Law Project in fall 2013 and spring 2014. As a pilot project in 2009, the Project is an educational program taught by volunteer citizen lawyers and judges in Virginia, and is specifically designed to enhance the teaching of the rule of law to middle school civics students in public and private schools throughout the state. The purpose of this free, one-day educational program is to better inform middle school students about the role of the rule of law as the foundation for our representative form of government and to provide them with information that will make them more active and engaged citizens.

The educational program materials for the VLF/VBA Rule of Law Project consist of:

- a Web-based curriculum that includes a description of the VLF/VBA Rule of Law Project, a training video for teachers and lawyers to use in preparing for the Rule of Law Project, reading lists, previsitation instructional ideas for teachers, visitation day writing/discussion prompts, lesson plans, and actual case studies. The curriculum also includes a high resolution movie file of "The Law Rules," a video featuring prominent lawyers and judges talking about the history and meaning of the rule of law, and a form for use by teachers in evaluating each class as an enhancement to the general civics curriculum; and
- contact information for teachers and lawyers who desire additional assistance in preparing for the Project.

The Project and related materials have been developed by educators, administrators, parents, judges, and lawyers in collaboration with local school officials. All materials are aligned to the Virginia *Standards of Learning for Civics and Economics*.

The VLF/VBA Rule of Law Project is funded by a partnership grant from the Virginia Law Foundation. A link to the Rule of Law Project may be found at www.ruleoflaw-vba.org.

If you have administrative questions regarding the VLF/VBA Rule of Law Project, please contact G. Michael Pace, Jr., law coordinator, by e-mail at gpace@roanoke.edu or by telephone at (540) 520-1915. Education questions regarding the content of the project should be directed to H. Timothy Isaacs, education director, by e-mail at timisaacs7@yahoo.com or by telephone at (540) 206-2823; or for further information, please contact Christonya Brown, coordinator of history and social sciences, by e-mail at Christonya.Brown@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2893.

PIW/CB/pk

