

Derrick J. Johnson, Esq.
P.O. Box 613552, North Miami, FL 33261

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW, Coral Gables, Florida

Master of Law (International Law) Candidate, May 2025

Juris Doctorate, May 2003

Honors:

Dean's Scholarship, Minority Participation in Legal Education Scholarship, 2004-2005 Leadership Through Service Award, James F. Mofsky Service Award (Spring 2003), American Inns of Court, 2000-2001 SBA Senator of the Year Co-Recipient, Phi Alpha Delta Title of *Emeritus* and SBA Senate Title of *Emeritus*.

Activities: *Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity*, President; Student Bar Association, Senator (elected three terms), SBA Parliamentarian and Senate Advisor; SBA Secretary; International Moot Court Board; Black Law Students Association; Hispanic Law Student Association; *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, News Editor; and Law School Ambassador.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, Tampa, Florida

Master of Public Administration, December 1999

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & Government (*cum laude*), December 1994

Honors:

Florida House of Representatives, District 60, Outstanding Service Award, The USF Student Government Supreme Court Terri E. Oster Award, The Residence Life Minority Scholarship, The USF Student Government President's Award, Certificate of Recognition of Superior Academic Achievement (USF Founder's Day), USF Foundation Scholarship, National Dean's List "Who's Who" (Spring Term), College of Arts & Sciences Book Scholarship Award, and Dean's List (Fall and Spring).

Activities: *USF Legal Brief Law Journal*, Staff member; *Sigma Chi* International Fraternity, Pre-Law Society, President; *Pi Gamma Mu* Social Science Honor Society; *Sigma Iota Rho* International Studies Honor Society; *Pi Sigma Alpha* Political Science Honor Society; *Phi Kappa Phi* National Honors Society; Golden Key National Honors Society; Campus Compact Inner City Mentoring Program and USF Student Government Supreme Court Chief Justice.

WORK EXPERIENCE

June 2004 - Present **Miami-Dade Public Schools**, Miami, Florida.

Temporary Instructor (2004-2006). Served as a substitute teacher for the Miami (Kendall) area.

Full Time Social Studies Instructor (2006-present). Assignments: Miami Norland Senior High School (2006-2010), School for Advanced Studies (2010 - 2015), Hialeah Gardens Senior High School (2016 - Present).

Jan. 2003 - May 2003 **Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office**, Miami, Florida.

Certified Legal Intern. Worked in the Domestic Violence Unit by conducting legal research, writing appellate briefs, preparing writs of information and arguing cases in court.

May 2001 - July 2001 **United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida**, Miami, Florida.

Judicial Intern for the Honorable James Lawrence King, Senior U.S. District Court Judge. Wrote judicial orders and conducted research on legal issues pertaining to torts, civil procedure, and contracts.

Jan. 1998 - Aug. 2000 **Hillsborough County Bar Association**, Tampa, Florida.

Administrative & Program Coordinator. Scheduled and oversaw the set up of bar related events.

Aug. 1996 - Jan. 1998 **Florida House of Representatives, District 60**, Temple Terrace, Florida.

Legislative Secretary/ Assistant for State Representative Victor D. Crist. Researched constituent cases and handled public relations.

TEACHING AWARDS & HONORS

2022	Hialeah Gardens Senior High School Teacher of the Year Nominee Finalist
2021	National Academy Foundation Katherine Blasik Distinguished Award (Academy Recipient)
2021	We the People Mock Congressional Hearing Miami-Dade County District Champions (Coach)
2020	Miami Dade College Center for Economic Education Regional Economic Educator & Leadership Award
2014, 2024, 2025	We the People Mock Congressional Hearing Florida State Champions (Coach)
2013 - 2015	Florida International University Center for Excellence Coach of the Year
2013, 2020, 2022	High School Mock Trial District Champions Miami-Dade County District Champions (Coach)
2012, 2019, 2025	Florida 3rd DCA High School Moot Court District Champions (Coach)
2012	U.S. Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition for Excellence in Education
2012	CBS Channel 4 Love My Teacher Award (June Recipient)
2011, 2013	Florida High School Moot Court State Champions (Coach)
2011 - 2012	Miami Dadeland Pinecrest Rotary President's Award for Rotary Interact Advisor Service
2011 - 2012	School for Advanced Studies Award for Excellence in Education
2011 - 2012	Miami Dade Council for the Social Studies High School Teacher of the Year
2011 - 2012	School for Advanced Studies Teacher of the Year Finalist
2009	Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Citation for Community Service
2009	Miami Norland Senior High School Nominated Rookie Teacher of the Year for 2008-2009
2008	We the People: Navajo Nation Seminar Participant
2008	Civitas: Democracy Camp Participant
2008	Florida Supreme Court Justice Institute Teaching Institute Fellow
2008	Miami Norland Senior High School Nominated Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008
2007	Miami Norland Senior High School Rookie Teacher of the Year Finalist for 2006-2007

Publication samples and references are available upon request.

SUMMARY OF LAW RELATED EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Famed educator Mary McLeod Bethune once said, "Cease to be a drudge, seek to be an artist." Her inspirational words have served as a guiding principle to how I have approached my law related activities throughout my career as a high school law teacher; I have fashioned myself as an artist who has attempted to paint the canvas of the law that depicts its dynamics. I have been teaching law related courses in the South Florida area for nearly twenty years. I started my teaching career at Miami Norland Senior High School (2006-2010), which was a Title I school. I taught Comprehensive Law Studies, Debate and A.P. U.S. Government & Politics. In 2010, I accepted a position at the School for Advanced Studies -South (2010-2015) where I taught law courses like A.P. U.S. Government & Politics and Honors U.S. Constitutional Law. In 2016, I joined the Academy of Law Studies (AOLS) faculty at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School, which is also a Title I school. As an AOLS teacher, I have taught courses like Legal System & Concepts, Law Studies, Comprehensive Law Studies, International Law, Political Science and Legal Research Skills. I am currently teaching courses which include Honors U.S. Constitutional Law, Dual Enrollment Criminology, Dual Enrollment Introduction to Criminal Justice, Court Procedures, Legal Ethics, and Honors Debate Levels 5, 6 and 7.

Serving at a Title I school is often very challenging, as financial and human resources are, at times, scarce. So, when I joined the AOLS faculty at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School, I was determined to make the law studies experience for my students on par with (or even exceeding) the experience that they would receive at a school in a more affluent community. From 2017 to the present, I have worked with my academy leaders in designing the law curriculum for the AOLS program. My goal was not only to cover the theory and history of the law and of the legal system, but to also have my students see the real everyday impact of the legal field on their lives. To that end, I helped to establish a partnership with the National Association for Legal Support Professionals (NALS), where my students take the paralegal examination and potentially become certified while still in high school. I also helped to design summer internship opportunities for my students in local law firms, like the Patino Law Group, and government entities, like the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office. In 2020, I established a partnership with the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, in conjunction with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, which yielded my students involvement in a plethora of law related educational and civics programs, such as the annual Federal Bar Association Law Day program, Constitution Day program, and Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions ("CD3") programs. These law-related activities afford my students the opportunity to learn about various careers in the court system, (including as a judge, court security officer, attorney, court reporter, and interpreter) and it connects them to a world beyond the textbook. Such was the strength and vitality of our AOLS curriculum and programs that, in 2021, we were recognized by the National Academy Foundation (NAF) as the first NAF law academy in the United States.

During my time at the Hialeah Gardens Senior High School Academy of Law Studies, I was responsible for establishing two curriculum and competition-based programs that have been extremely successful in furthering the tenets of law related education the We the People Congressional Hearing program and the mock trial team program. Established in 1986, the We the People: Citizens and the Constitution Program is a national program whereby students are taught basic civic and legal lessons

as they pertain to the United States Constitution. The We the People program culminates with simulated congressional hearings where students testify before a panel of judges acting as members of Congress. I've been associated with the We the People Program since 2007, when I started my teaching career at Miami Norland Senior High. Later in my career, I was responsible for incorporating the We the People curriculum into my Honors U.S. Constitutional Law class in 2013, at the School for Advanced Studies - South and again, in 2017, when I joined the AOLS faculty at my current school. Through my guidance, my students have developed an appreciation for the U.S. Constitution and the law in general, which is evidenced by the fact that my classes have won We the People district championships in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2021, 2024 and 2025 and they won We the People state championships in 2014, 2024 and 2025. Most recently, my AOLS students have advanced to the We the People National Finals, for the second year in a row.

The second program that I was responsible for establishing at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School was the mock trial program. Since 2006, I've been involved in mock trial as an instructor, a coach, and as a judge. Prior to joining the AOLS program, I established the mock trial program at School for Advanced Studies-South which was very successful as we won the 2013 Miami-Dade County Public Schools High School Mock Trial championship and consistently ranked in the top five mock trial teams in the county from 2011 to 2015. When I joined the AOLS faculty in 2016, I was determined to bring a sense of "championship mock trial pedigree" to our campus. I was responsible for acquiring books, like *Winning Objections: A Mock Trial Guidebook*, to my students, so they could develop the necessary litigation skills to excel at mock trial competitions. The success of the AOLS program is evidenced by the fact that we won Miami-Dade County Public Schools High School Mock Trial championships in 2020 and 2022, and we consistently ranked among the top four mock trial teams in the county from 2019 to 2024. However, the AOLS mock trial program achievements aren't just limited to competitions. In the fall of 2022, the captain of my mock trial team and I met with representatives from Hialeah Garden Middle School, and we established the Hialeah Gardens Senior High School Varsity Mock Trial Team Mentorship Program. The program entailed members of the high school mock trial team who would go to our local middle school and expose students to basic litigation skills and courtroom etiquette. Under my supervision, my mock trial team mentors helped the middle school students prepare for their competitions. This mentorship program, now in its third year, has not only fostered a successful partnership, but it has also opened a gateway for middle school children to further explore the wonders of the law. In 2024, we have expanded our mentorship program to also include homeschooled students. Moreover, in April of 2024 my mock trial team co-hosted a mock trial tournament for 6th-8th grade homeschooled students.

In 2020, Hialeah Gardens Senior High School created the Shield program, which was specifically designed to identify and provide enrichment educational opportunities to academically talented and highly motivated students. I was approached by my principal to set up a summer program (under the banner of the Shield program) which would be aimed at recruiting in-coming freshmen who might have an interest in the law. I accepted my principal's offer and created the Hialeah Gardens Senior High School Mock Trial Summer Bootcamp. The purpose of the bootcamp is to expose students to the mechanics of litigation as well as to sharpen their critical thinking skills through analysis of modern-day social issues. For example, in 2020, summer bootcamp students analyzed the issue of "law

and order versus police brutality” when they did a simulated trial loosely based on the George Floyd killing. As a result of my summer mock trial bootcamp, freshmen enrollment in the Hialeah Gardens Senior High School Academy of Law Studies has not only grown in the fall of 2023, but student interest in taking law classes as well as law related activities has also increased significantly.

In terms of extra-curricular activities, I have dedicated many hours outside the classroom to law related activities. For example, in 2010, I was responsible for establishing the very first chapter of the Florida Law Honor Society (FLHS) at the School for Advanced Studies - South. The purpose of FLHS is to advance scholarship in law-related fields by providing service opportunities, promoting leadership, civic engagement and education opportunities, as well as instilling a sense of respect for the courts and the judicial branch. After I left the School for Advanced Studies – South, I started another FLHS chapter at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School in 2017, which is still thriving today. As sponsor of the Hialeah Gardens Senior High School chapter of FLHS, I have created law related career opportunities for my students. For example, I have organized field trips to Florida International University College of Law, St. Thomas University School of Law, and the University of Miami School of Law. These field trips provide valuable insight on the steps that are necessary to gain admission into law school as well as the requirements to pursue a career as an attorney. I have also been involved in establishing a high school level moot court program, first at the School for Advanced Studies – South in 2011, then at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School in 2019. My moot court program focuses on exposing students to the appellate process, which occurs after trial, and students also develop their legal writing skills by learning how to write an appellate brief. They also develop their public speaking skills by learning how to make oral arguments. The success of my moot court program is illustrated by the fact that, as a coach and faculty sponsor, my students won two Florida high school moot court state championships (first in 2011 and again in 2013) and a third-place state level ranking in 2019, and district level moot court championships in 2011-2013, 2015, 2019 and 2025.

Over the years, I have received many honors and awards for my law related educational activities and my dedication to civic education. While teaching at Miami Norland Senior High School, I was a finalist for the Rookie Teacher of the Year Award in 2007 and 2009 and the Teacher of the Year Award in 2008. While at School for Advanced Studies – South, I was a finalist for the 2012 Teacher of the Year Award, and the recipient for the 2012 School for Advanced Studies Award for Excellence in Education. At my current school, Hialeah Gardens Senior High School I was a finalist for the 2022 Teacher of the Year Award and I, along with my academy, were recognized by the National Academy Foundation (NAF) as recipients of the Katherine Blasik Distinguished Academy Award for establishing the first NAF high school law studies academy in the nation. At the county level, I was recognized as the 2012 Miami Dade Council for the Social Studies High School Social Science Teacher of the Year for my dedication to law related education and the social sciences, and I was the June 2012 recipient of the CBS Channel 4 Love My Teacher Award. At the state level, I’ve been recognized as a Florida Supreme Court Justice Institute Teaching Institute Fellow in 2008 and as a recipient of the 2012 Florida Council for the Social Studies High School Social Science Teacher of the Year Award.

STEARNS WEAVER MILLER
WEISSLER ALHADEFF & SITTERSON, P.A.

Stephanie L. Turk
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May 2, 2025

American Lawyers Alliance
Teacher of the Year Award
Margaret Settle, Chairperson
Email: settlemom@yahoo.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Dr. Derrick Johnson with respect to the American Lawyers Alliance Teacher of the Year Award. There is no one more deserving of this award recognizing an outstanding teacher who has made significant contributions to law-related education.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Johnson for the last several years. We first met when Dr. Johnson agreed to participate in one of the few civics programs coordinated by the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association in conjunction with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. These civics programs include our annual Law Day program, annual Constitution Day program, and Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions ("CD3") programs (held throughout the school year). I have led these programs for the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association since 2017. I knew from the outset that Dr. Johnson was an extremely dedicated and special teacher.

To begin, Dr. Johnson is a Law Academy teacher at the Academy of Law Studies at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School, a Title I high school in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Dr. Johnson also teaches in the areas of law studies, constitutional law honors, dual-enrollment criminal justice, dual-enrollment international law, introduction to political science, and legal systems and concepts. These roles alone show he has been dedicated to law-related education for many years.

But, of course, that merely touches the surface of Dr. Johnson's significant contributions to law-related education. Dr. Johnson has spent approximately eight hours per week outside of the classroom, helping his students learn law-related skills. As part of this effort, Dr. Johnson helps coach the student mock trial and moot court teams, extracurricular activities that go beyond time in the classroom for about ten hours per week. And at least every year (sometimes every semester), Dr. Johnson has collectively spent more than 500 hours helping his students compete in mock trial and moot court tournaments, exposing his students to trial and appellate law practice helping them hone their trial and appellate skills.

As more recent examples of these significant mock-trial/moot court coaching contributions, in February of 2025, Dr. Johnson coached his Varsity Mock Trial Team. His team participated in the 2025 Miami-Dade County Public Schools Mock Trial High School Competition and ranked in the top five teams in the county. In March of 2025, Dr. Johnson coached his Moot Court Team. His team won the Florida Third District Court of Appeal Competition. The team advanced to the 2025 Florida Bar Association High School Moot Court Semi-Finals in Tallahassee last month and ranked in the top five teams in the state.

Additionally, every year, Dr. Johnson leads his students in participating in the *We the People* program – local, state, and national simulated congressional hearings designed to deepen students' knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The program is also designed to build upon workplace skills, including working cooperatively as a team, public speaking, and managing conflict. Dr. Johnson's students are the current back-to-back Miami-Dade County and State of Florida *We the People* Champions (and have been prior recipients of these titles in years prior). Dr. Johnson's students competed in the National *We the People* last month for the second year in a row. As with the mock trial team, Dr. Johnson has spent approximately five additional hours per week outside of the classroom dedicated to preparing his students for these competitions. These accolades alone are impressive, but what is more impressive is Dr. Johnson's commitment to his students' development.

Also showing Dr. Johnson's steadfast commitment to legal education, Dr. Johnson was critical to steering his school through the National Academy Foundation ("NAF") accreditation process in 2021. The Academy of Law Studies was granted accreditation in 2021, thanks in part to Dr. Johnson's efforts in establishing the legal education and exposure necessary for his school to receive the accreditation.

Dr. Johnson also consistently provides his students with opportunities to visit federal courthouses and meet with federal judges and attorneys, and learn about various careers within the law. Dr. Johnson has consistently exposed his students to our federal court system and civics education through the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association's many civics programs over the last several years. Dr. Johnson's students have participated in our annual Law Day and Constitutional Day programs and many of our CD3 programs. The most recent programs Dr. Johnson's students participated in were Constitution Day on September 13, 2024, and a CD3 program on December 12, 2024. Almost all of our civics programs are morning programs hosted at one of the federal courthouses in downtown Miami, where students get the opportunity to participate in a program in a federal courtroom and with a federal judge and attorney volunteers. The students learn about various careers in the court system, including as a judge, court reporter, court security officer, attorney, and interpreter.

As for Constitution Day, every year we celebrate this national event at the federal courthouse in September. The program focuses on the United States Constitution and its amendments. While the topics discussed every year vary, each program involves an interactive discussion among the students, a federal judge, and local federal attorney volunteers.

As for Law Day, every year the American Bar Association sets the law-related theme. As an example, this year's theme is "The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One," which enshrines our collective responsibility to one another, urging us to take pride in a Constitution that bridges our differences to bring us together as a united nation. Typically, the Law Day program starts with students observing a naturalization ceremony, and additional interactive and educational programming with the judge and attorneys related to the theme follows the ceremony.

As for the CD3 program, the program teaches students the importance of civil discourse during disagreements and arguments. Students also have the opportunity to act as attorneys in front of a federal judge, and make legal and factual arguments about a fictional scenario based on an actual U.S. Supreme Court case. Students then get to act as jurors and render a verdict based on their deliberations with their peers. Finally, the students are tested about real-life scenarios and the potential consequences of those scenarios to help students make more informed choices in the future.

Even the COVID-19 pandemic could not stop Dr. Johnson from participating in such timely and critical programming for his students. During the pandemic, the CD3 and other civics programs were conducted via Zoom. Dr. Johnson's drive to have his students experience a program with the federal court never diminished. Dr. Johnson and his students have consistently participated in these civics programs over the last several years.

Lastly, but certainly not least (I do not know when Dr. Johnson sleeps), in July of 2024, Dr. Johnson served as a mentor for the Civics Empowers All Students (CEAS) program where he helped elementary and middle school teachers learn how to effectively teach and implement the *We the People* and other civics-based curriculum in their classrooms. In February 2025, Dr. Johnson also worked with CEAS and Miami-Dade College to organize an event where U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor was the keynote speaker. His impact on law-related education has sent ripples across South Florida that no doubt will continue to be felt for years to come.

In sum, Dr. Johnson has shown unwavering dedication to educating his students about our legal system and the many facets of it. I have watched his commitment to exposing his students to as many legal educational opportunities as possible, year after year. He is a one-of-a-kind teacher. For all of these reasons, I proudly recommend Dr. Derrick Johnson as the recipient of the American Lawyers Alliance Teacher of the Year Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Turk

Stephanie Turk, Esq.



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Jose L. Dotres

March 20, 2025

Miami-Dade County School Board

Mari Tere Rojas, Chair

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Vice Chair

Roberto J. Alonso

Lucia Baez-Geller

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall

Monica Colucci

Daniel Espino

Dr. Steve Gallon III

Luisa Santos

Dear Members of the American Lawyers Alliance Teacher of the Year Award Committee,

It is with immense pleasure that I write this letter to endorse Dr. Derrick Johnson for the American Lawyers Alliance Teacher of the Year Award. I have had the honor of working alongside Dr. Johnson for over five years on various initiatives within Hialeah Gardens High School's Academy of Law Studies (AOLS), where his contributions have been nothing short of exemplary.

Dr. Johnson's impact on AOLS has been profound. He played a pivotal role in developing and implementing several key programs and projects that have enriched our curriculum and students' experiences. Notably, Dr. Johnson was instrumental in creating our Mock Trial Competition team, which has consistently excelled in regional and state competitions. His leadership also extends to the We the People Competition Team, which he helped mentored and has garnered significant recognition and success. These are just a few of the many opportunities Dr. Johnson offers his students. In addition to taking part in various competitions, Dr. Johnson is an advocate for immersive learning experiences and connects students with internship opportunities, offers job shadows, bring career speakers to the classroom, and even takes students to court so they could experience being present for real trials.

One of Dr. Johnson's most remarkable achievements was his involvement in building the first NAF-certified law academy in the nation. His dedication to curriculum design and recommendations has been invaluable, ensuring that our students receive the highest quality education in law-related studies. Dr. Johnson's commitment to student success is clear in his role as a teacher, where he has mentored and guided students to achieve top placements in competitions and excel in their studies. Dr. Johnson even helps students develop their skills in the field and helped in offering the National Accreditation of Legal Secretary (NALS) certification exam to students committed to preparing and interested in law.

Through his teaching, Dr. Johnson has deepened his students' understanding of the role of the courts, law enforcement agencies, and the legal profession. His passion for law-related education is contagious, inspiring students to pursue careers in the legal field and fostering a culture of excellence within our school and community.

I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Derrick Johnson for the American Lawyers Alliance Teacher of the Year Award. His dedication, expertise, and commitment to advancing law-related education make him a deserving candidate for this prestigious honor. I am confident that his continued contributions will have a lasting impact on our students and community.

Sincerely,

Vanessa M. Valle

Francisco R. Walker 2021 Teacher of the Year

Hialeah Gardens High, 11700 Hialeah Gardens Blvd, Hialeah Gardens FL 33018

Ms. Maritza D. Jiménez, Principal. Phone: 305-698-5000 Fax: 305-698-5001

hghs@dadeschools.net

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE OF LAW RELATED EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL WEBPAGES

Hialeah Gardens Senior High School Faculty Profile. Here is the link:
https://hghsgladiators.com/m/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1133558&type=u

Hialeah Gardens Senior High School Academy of Law Studies Website. Here is the link:
<https://hghsaols.weebly.com/contact.html>

Hialeah Gardens Senior High School Academy of Law Studies Curriculum. Here is the link:
https://hghsgladiators.com/m/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=425793&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=938493

VIDEOS

Telemundo Miami 51 (2025): “Estudiantes de Hialeah Gardens High en reto nacional,”

Full video link: <https://www.telemundo51.com/noticias/local/estudiantes-de-hialeah-gardens-high-en-reto-nacional/2645507/>

Univision (March 10, 2025): “Hialeah Gardens High School We the People State Champions,”

Full video link: <https://youtu.be/9hl9hLxHV-U>

NAF Katherine Blasik Distinguished Academy Award Ceremony (2022): Here is the link (AOLS recognized at 00:03:46): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeNQLGWRAsg>

NBC 6 South Florida Education News (2021): “Seeing the Chauvin Trial as a Teachable Moment”

Full video and transcript link: <https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/seeing-the-chauvin-trial-as-a-teachable-moment/2437425/>

Shorten video link: <https://youtu.be/6nN-bqlf8ko>

CBS Channel 4 Love My Teacher: “Dr. Derrick Johnson”

Full video link: https://youtu.be/K0lM9_eXM

Full transcript link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/love-my-teacher-dr-derrick-johnson/>

ARTICLES & PRESS RELEASES

The Miami Laker, “Hialeah Gardens High School’s law academy students ace We the People contest,” (March 19, 2025). Here is the link: <https://miamilaker.com/News-Article/hialeah-gardens-high-schools-law-academy-students-ace-we-the-people-contest>

Amanda Demanda Personal Injury Lawyers Press Release, Preparing for Nationals: Amanda Visits We the People Team at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School, (March 21, 2025): <https://www.callamandademanda.com/photo-gallery/preparing-for-nationals-amanda-visits-we-the-people-team-at-hialeah-gardens-senior-high-school/>

Florida Third District Court of Appeal Press Release, “Students from Hialeah Gardens High School Attend Oral Argument Session,” (December 3, 2024) Here is the link: <https://3dca.flcourts.gov/Marshal-s-Office/Special-Events/STUDENTS-FROM-HIALEAH-GARDENS-HIGH-SCHOOL-ATTENDED-ORAL-ARGUMENT-SESSION>

Florida Bar News, “Civics Programs Abound in Miami-Dade Schools,” (November 1, 2014) Here is the link: <https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-news/civics-programs-abound-in-miami-dade-schools/>

Miami-Dade County Public Schools News, “School for Advanced Studies (SAS) Wins 2013 State Moot Court Competition,” (May 7, 2013). Here is the link: https://news.dadeschools.net/releases/rls13/100_sas.html

Miami-Dade County Public Schools News, “School for Advanced Studies Wins 2013 Miami-Dade County Mock Trial Competition and Advances to State,” (February 28, 2013). Here is the link: https://news.dadeschools.net/releases/rls13/039_sas.html

Miami-Dade County Public Schools News, “School for Advanced Studies Moot Court Team to Defend its Title in Tallahassee, May 10,” (May 3, 2012). Here is the link: https://news.dadeschools.net/releases/rls12/361_moot_court.html

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Hialeah Gardens Gladiator Post, April 16, 2025: “We the People Alumni Yanesi Gonzalez” https://www.instagram.com/p/DIGN4LoRKtY/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Hialeah Gardens Senior High School AOLS Instagram Post, “We the People District Champions,” January 2021: Here is the link: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CKjifGWhW4u/>

Justice Teaching Center for Civic Learning Facebook Post, March 5, 2020: Here is the link: https://www.facebook.com/flsouthern.edu/posts/2783540841683431/?paipv=0&eav=AfaMdTUPSfP2UZrSJX242KhNyMv3ul6-Eb6OgyXBmx2lhjgtyASCUNpIIDzJQPsuYt4&_rdr

MISCELLANEOUS WEBSITES

We the People National Outstanding Alumni Award 2025. Here is the link: <https://civiced.org/we-the-people/national-competitions/finals/awards>

We the People National Finals 2025. Here is the link: <https://civiced.org/we-the-people/national-competitions/finals/info-teams>

We the People National Finals 2024. Here is the link: <https://civiced.org/we-the-people/national-competitions/finals/info-teams>

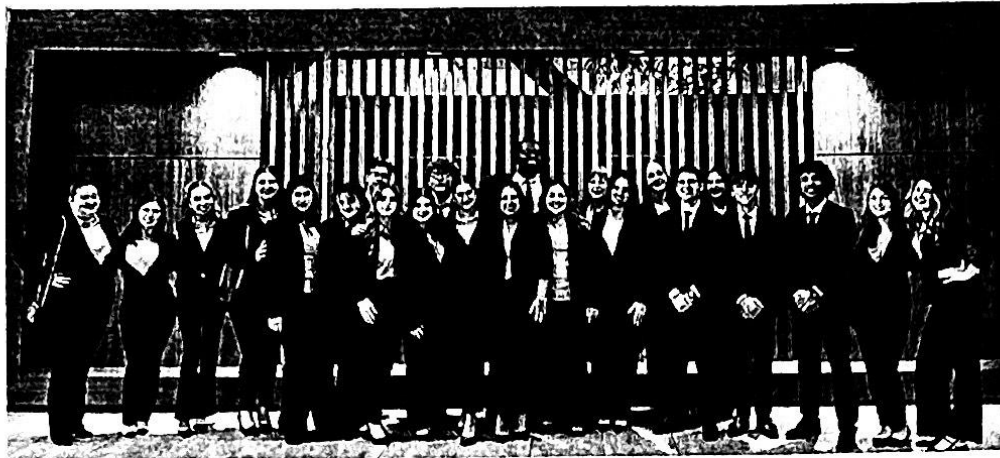
We the People National Finals 2014. Here is the link: <https://www.civiced.org/national-finals-2014-students>

2012 Florida Council for the Social Studies High School Social Science Teacher of the Year Award. Here is the link: https://fcss.org/content.php?page=2012_TOY_Winners

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Hialeah Gardens High School's law academy students ace We the People contest

By Linda Trischitta, Editor | Wednesday, March 19, 2025



Hialeah Gardens High School's law academy. Courtesy photo.

Hialeah Gardens High School's Academy of Law Studies students competed in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' We the People competition in January. The team won the district contest and progressed to the state event and won that, too. The students are preparing to compete in Virginia in April in the national finals round of the We The People test of the U.S. Constitution and government. The team has bragging rights as they placed first in 2024 and 2025 in the Florida state constitutional hearings finals and will compete in nationals for the second year in a row. From left: Lorena Perez; Mariam Moreira; Melanie Montalvan; Melanie Portillo; Melanie Perez-Garcia; Andrea Morales; Steven

Santana; Isabel Alfonso; Camil Gonzalez; Abraham Nieves-Rodriguez; Kimberly Perez; Genesis Cordero; Alexa Tapanes; Cira Rojas; Dr. Derrick Johnson, sponsor for the competition; Teacher Nancy Abay; Giselle Alarraga; Jayko Ruiz; Sophia Delacruz; Adrian Socorro; Yoan Martinez; Catalina Valido and Sabrina Navarro.

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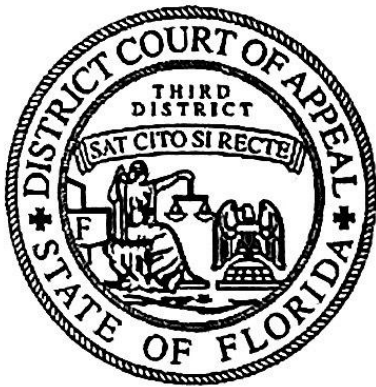
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/ STUDENTS FROM HIALEAH GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED ORAL ARGUMENT SESSION

STUDENTS FROM HIALEAH GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED ORAL ARGUMENT SESSION

Published on: 12/3/24, 3:02 PM



On December 3, 2024, students from Hialeah Gardens High School, through the ABOTA Program, attended the Court's Oral Arguments. Chief Judge Thomas Logue (<https://3dca.flcourts.gov/Judges/Chief-Judge-Thomas-Logue>) and Judges Kevin Emas (<https://3dca.flcourts.gov/Judges/Judge-Kevin-Emas>) and Edwin A. Scales, III (<https://3dca.flcourts.gov/Judges/Judge-Edwin-A.-Scales-III>), hosted a question-and-answer panel with the students after the session.

Marshal's Office

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Home > **Preparing for Nationals: Amanda Visits We The People Team at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School**



Written by **Amanda Demanda**

In Partnership with

Hialeah Gardens High School

As the We The People National Competition draws near, Amanda Demanda had the honor of visiting Hialeah Gardens Senior High School to connect with the Law Academy, the We The People Team, and the senior class. In a heartfelt presentation at the school auditorium, Amanda shared her personal journey in law, offering students meaningful insight, practical advice, and encouragement for anyone considering a legal career. The visit included an engaging Q&A session, where students asked thoughtful questions about the legal profession, advocacy, and Amanda's experience as a Latina in law.

Amanda also toured the school, visited classrooms, and had the opportunity to meet with teachers, staff, and students across campus. As a proud sponsor of the We The People team representing Florida at the national competition in Washington D.C., Amanda's visit was a reflection of her commitment to supporting the next generation of legal minds. The day ended with small gift giveaways, smiles, and group photos to commemorate the inspiring experience. We can't wait to see what these future champions achieve—and we're honored to have played a small role in helping them sharpen their arguments and believe in their potential. A big thank-you to Hialeah Gardens Senior High School for the warm welcome!



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Center for Civic Education

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We the People

The Citizen and the Constitution

Find within We the People...

National Finals: April 9-11, 2025

Prepare to be amazed as high school students from across the nation showcase their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and American government. Now in its fifth decade, the National Finals serves as an exciting finale to students' We the People educational journey. The competition utilizes Simulated Congressional Hearings and typically features 48 teams, each representing their respective states.

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- **Arizona**
 - *Winner:* Corona Del Sol High School–Tempe, AZ
Teacher: Alison Rund
 - *Wildcard:* Hamilton High School–Chandler, AZ
Teacher: Brianna Willits
- **California**
 - *Winner:* Foothill High School–Pleasanton, CA
Teacher: Graham McBride and Jeremy Detamore
 - *Wildcard:* Arcadia High School–Arcadia, CA
Teacher: Megan Leahy
 - *John Lewis Class:* Tennyson High School–Hayward, CA
Teacher: Javier Astorga, Charlie Jones, and Mark Ohlmann
- **Colorado**
 - *Winner:* Denver East High School–Denver, CO
Teacher: Mandy Hostetter
 - *Wildcard:* Grandview High School–Aurora, CO
Teacher: Jason Kosanovich
- **Connecticut**
 - *Winner:* Trumbull High School–Trumbull, CT
Teacher: Katie Boland
 - *Wildcard:* Staples High School–Westport, CT
Teacher: Suzanne Kammerman
- **District of Columbia**
 - *Winner:* National Cathedral School–Washington, D.C.
Teacher: David Sahr
- **Florida**
 - *Winner:* Hialeah Gardens Senior High School–Hialeah Gardens, FL
Teacher: Derrick Johnson
 - *Wildcard:* Nova High School–Davie, FL
Teacher: Kristin Murphy
- **Illinois**
 - *Winner:* Maine South High School–Park Ridge, IL
Teacher: Leah Politi and Kevin Hansen
 - *Wildcard:* St. Joseph-Ogden High School–St. Joseph, IL
Teacher: Marshall Schacht and Don Beckett
- **Indiana**
 - *Winner:* Plainfield High School–Plainfield, IN
Teacher: Adam Ferguson and Robbie Pelkey
 - *Wildcard:* Fishers High School–Fishers, IN
Teacher: Liz Paternoster and Matt Follman
- **Kentucky**
 - *Winner:* Highlands High School–Fort Thomas, KY
Teacher: Megan Boimann-Hennies
- **Maryland**
 - *Winner:* Boonsboro High School–Boonsboro, MD
Teacher: Ashley Vascik

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- **Massachusetts**
 - *Winner:* Easthampton High School—Easthampton, MA
Teacher: Kelley Brown and Taylor Dadmun
- **Michigan**
 - *Winner:* Ann Arbor Pioneer High School—Ann Arbor, MI
Teacher: Alex Constantelos
 - *Wildcard:* East Grand Rapids High School—Grand Rapids, MI
Teacher: Adam Horos
- **Montana**
 - *Winner:* Laurel High School—Laurel, MT
Teacher: Dan Gatley
- **Nebraska**
 - *Winner:* Lincoln East High School & Lincoln Southwest High School (Combined)—Lincoln, NE
Teacher: Michaela Schleicher and Ryan Salem
- **Nevada**
 - *Winner:* Reno High School—Reno, NV
Teacher: Richard Clark
 - *Wildcard:* Southwest Career and Technical Academy—Las Vegas, NV
Teacher: Joseph Juliano
- **New Hampshire**
 - *Winner:* Hollis Brookline High School—Hollis, NH
Teacher: Trevor Duval
- **New Jersey**
 - *Winner:* East Brunswick High School—East Brunswick, NJ
Teacher: Marc Mondry
- **New Mexico**
 - *Winner:* Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School—Albuquerque, NM
Teacher: Bill Torres
- **New York**
 - *Winner:* Forest Hills High School—Forest Hills, NY
Teacher: Tara Kelly
 - *Wildcard:* James Madison High School—Brooklyn, NY
Teacher: Jeffrey Roth
- **North Dakota**
 - *Winner:* Edgeley High School—Edgeley, ND
Teacher: Melissa Entzi
- **Ohio**
 - *Winner:* Findlay High School—Findlay, OH
Teacher: Mark Dickman and Austin Fox
- **Oregon**
 - *Winner:* Lincoln High School—Portland, OR
Teacher: Patrick Magee-Jenks
 - *Wildcard:* Sprague High School—Salem, OR
Teacher: Jacqueline Pope Brothers
- **Rhode Island**

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- *Winner:* North Smithfield High School—North Smithfield, RI
Teacher: Natalie O'Brien
- **South Carolina**
 - *Winner:* River Bluff High School—Lexington, SC
Teacher: Linsy Dooley
- **South Dakota**
 - *Winner:* Spearfish High School—Spearfish, SD
Teacher: Patrick Gainey
- **Texas**
 - *Winner:* Tomball Innovation Center Law Club—Tomball, TX
Teacher: Greg Wiley
- **Utah**
 - *Winner:* Ridgeline High School—Millville, UT
Teacher: Julie Major
- **Virginia**
 - *Winner:* Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies—Richmond, VA
Teacher: Sam Ulmschneider
 - *Wildcard:* Douglas S. Freeman High School—Richmond, VA
Teacher: Rob Peck
- **Washington**
 - *Winner:* Tahoma Senior High School—Maple Valley, WA
Teacher: Gretchen Wulfinf
 - *Wildcard:* Bellarmine Preparatory School—Tacoma, WA
Teacher: Ken Brown
- **West Virginia**
 - *Winner:* Woodrow Wilson High School—Beckley, WV
Teacher: John Quesenberry
- **Wisconsin**
 - *Winner:* Wauwatosa East High School—Wauwatosa, WI
Teacher: Michael Aronow
 - *Wildcard:* Wauwatosa West High School—Wauwatosa, WI
Teacher: Chad Mateske
- **Wyoming**
 - *Winner:* Sheridan High School—Sheridan, WY
Teacher: Michael Thomas
 - *Wildcard:* Cody High School—Cody, WY
Teacher: Kerra Wagner

Important Information for Teachers

- 2025 Rules and Eligibility for High School Competition (/pdfs/nationalfinals/2025NF_RulesAndEligibility.pdf)

Travel Details

- All teams participating in the National Finals must travel with Grand Classroom (<https://grandclassroom.com>), our contracted travel vendor for 2025.
- Grand Classroom will work directly with teachers to arrange hotel accommodations, travel to the D.C. area, bus transportation to the competition venue, and to other preferred tourism locations.

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- Grand Classroom will consistently support and assist all teams, promptly addressing any travel needs or concerns, ensuring a smooth and stress-free travel experience for all participants.

About the Hearings

- Students' opening statements are four minutes long and may include student notes.
- Judges' follow-up questioning on Saturday and Sunday lasts eight minutes; on Monday (top 10), it extends to 10 minutes. During follow-up questioning, students may not use notes.

About Scoring

- The scoring team tabulates electronically submitted score sheets from judges, each with five categories. Each category is worth ten points for a maximum score of 50 points per sheet.
- Each unit is assessed by three judges, with the highest possible unit score being 150 points.
- Classes qualify for the top 10 based on combined scores from the first two days, advancing to round 3 on Monday.
- The national winner is determined by doubling the third-day scores and adding them to the total scores for the first two days.

Still Have Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Emily Voss (<mailto:voss@civiced.org>) by email. She can assist you or direct you to additional resources.



About



(<https://www.civiced.org/>) This site is brought to you by the Center for Civic Education (<https://www.civiced.org/>). The Center's mission is to promote an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy. The Center has reached more than 30 million students and their teachers since 1965. **Learn more** (/about).

Center for Civic Education

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Read Our Statement About the Corrected Results (<http://we-the-people/national-competitions/finals/awards/correction>)



Annual National Finals Awards

Awards were presented to teams in the three categories: Top-10, Unit, and Division.

Top-10 Awards

Presented to the ten schools with the highest cumulative scores during the three days of competition.

National Champions: Lincoln High School, Oregon, and Sprague High School, Oregon Wildcard

Second Place: Denver East High School, Colorado, and Fishers High School, Indiana Wildcard

The results listed above are not a tie but a corrective recognition that the original awards announcement was in error. The additional placements reflect the verified, accurate scores. The achievements of all teams affected by the scoring glitch are in no way diminished by the revised results. Please read the full statement on the corrected results here ([/we-the-people/national-competitions/finals/awards/correction](http://we-the-people/national-competitions/finals/awards/correction)).

Fifth Place: Reno High School, Nevada

Sixth Place: Douglas S. Freeman High School, Virginia Wildcard

Seventh Place: Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies, Virginia

Eighth Place: Staples High School, Connecticut Wildcard

Ninth Place: Arcadia High School, California Wildcard

Tenth Place: Corona Del Sol High School, Arizona

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Unit Awards

Presented to the schools achieving the highest cumulative scores, based on the first two days of the annual National Finals, in each of the six units of the *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* textbook.

Unit 1 Award: Sheridan High School, Wyoming

Unit 2 Award: Easthampton High School, Massachusetts

Unit 3 Award: Ann Arbor Pioneer High School, Michigan

Unit 4 Award: Lincoln East High School & Lincoln Southwest High School (Combined), Nebraska

Unit 5 Award: East Grand Rapids High School, Michigan Wildcard

Unit 6 Award: Hollis Brookline High School, New Hampshire

Division Awards

Presented to the teams achieving the highest cumulative scores, based on the first two days of the annual National Finals, in each of the four divisions (A-D). Divisions are composed in a way that balances teams based on prior team performance.

Division A Award: Plainfield High School, Indiana

Division B Award: Maine South High School, Illinois

Division C Award: Tahoma Senior High School, Washington

Division D Award: Trumbull High School, Connecticut

In addition to these awards, the Center also honors We the People alumni at the National Finals Awards Ceremony:

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Presented to an alum, 18-34 years of age at the time of nomination, who has distinguished themselves through service to their community, their country, or to society at large.

Yanesi Gonzalez, We the People Class of 2015, an alumna of Hialeah Gardens Senior High School in Florida is the 2025 We the People Alumni Network Outstanding Young Alumni Award winner.

Cincinnatus Award

Presented to an alum, over 35 years of age, who has provided extraordinary service to the world and who represents the ideals of virtuous service to benefit the common good.

Alison Brody, We the People Class of 1989, an alumna of Lincoln High School in Oregon, is the 2025 We the People Alumni Network Cincinnatus Award winner.

Awards Ceremony

The 2025 National Finals Awards Ceremony took place on Friday, April 11. This special event included the announcement of the top ten places and other award winners. For those who could not attend in person, the event was recorded for viewing at any time.

See Past Award Winners (</we-the-people/national-competitions/finals/awards/past-winners>)

Event Program

Peruse the official program of the 2025 National Finals Awards Ceremony, with school rosters, alumni award winners, judges, and so much more.

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Civic Education

2024 National Finals Begin in...

29d : 5h : 28m : 16s



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We the People

The Citizen and the Constitution

Find within We the People...

National Finals: April 13-15, 2024

Prepare to be amazed as high school students from across the nation showcase their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and American government. Now in its fifth decade, the National Finals serves as an exciting finale to students' We the People educational journey. The competition utilizes Simulated Congressional Hearings and typically features 48 teams, each representing their respective states.

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Information for Teams & Teachers

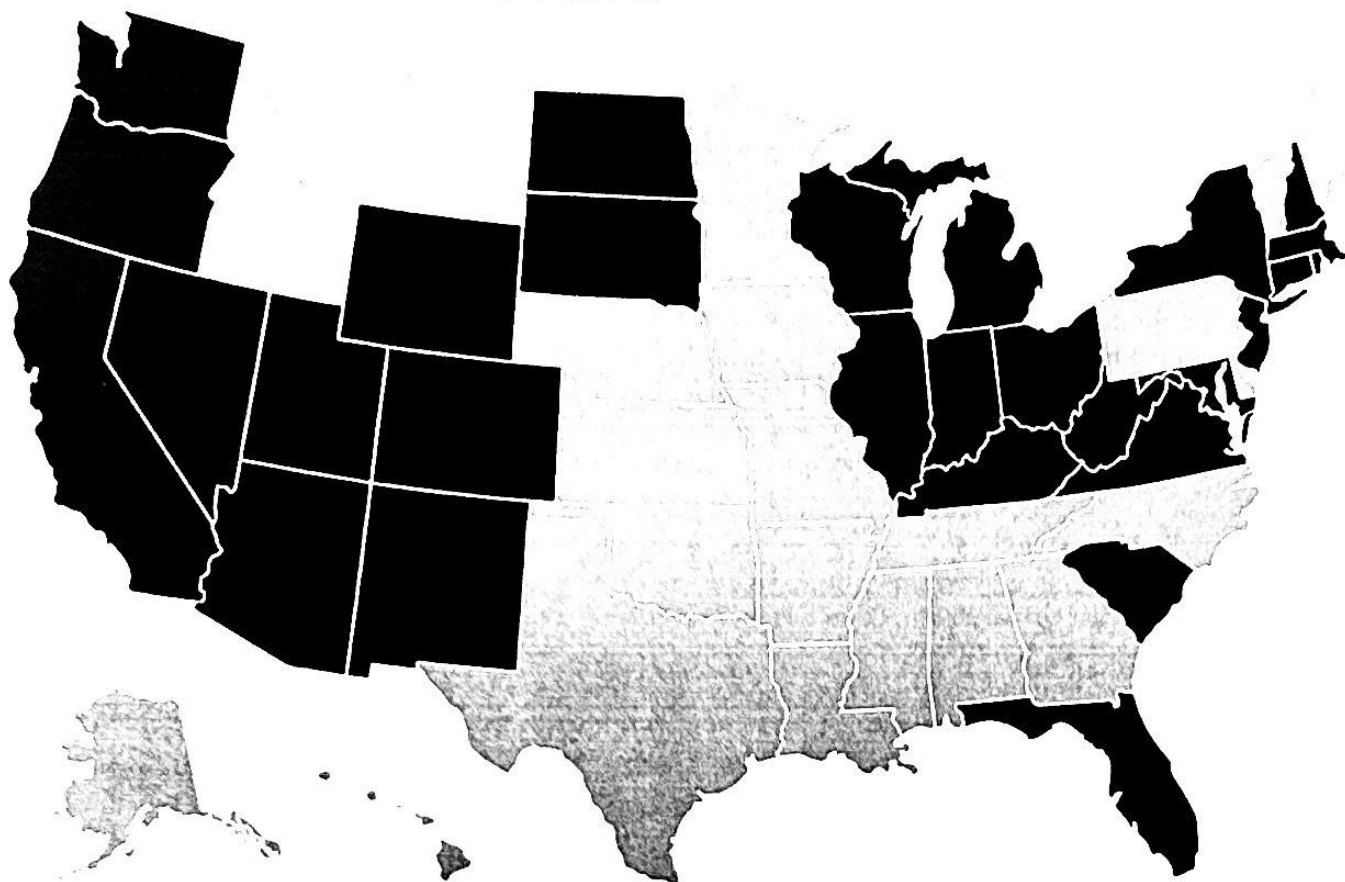
Congratulations on reaching the pinnacle of civic education and earning your spot in the We the People National Finals. This is where your journey to become informed and engaged citizens reaches its most exciting chapter!

Here, you will find a collection of essential documents about the competition's structure and the agenda for the National Finals weekend. **More information will be added as we get closer to the weekend, so check back here often for updates.**

Who is Participating In 2024

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- **Arizona**

- *Winner:* Corona del Sol High School—Tempe, AZ
Teacher: Alison Rund
- *Wildcard:* Hamilton High School—Chandler, AZ
Teacher: Brianna Willits

- **California**

- *Winner:* Amador Valley High School—Pleasanton, CA
Teacher: Stacey Sklar
- *Wildcard:* Foothill High School—Pleasanton, CA
Teacher: Graham McBride, Jeremy Detamore
- *Open:* Centennial High School—Bakersfield, CA
Teacher: Joseph Biron

- **Colorado**

- *Winner:* East High School—Denver, CO
Teacher: Mandy Hostetter
- *John Lewis Class:* Overland High School—Aurora, CO
Teacher: Kelly Jones-Wagy

- **Connecticut**

- *Winner:* Trumbull High School—Trumbull, CT
Teacher: Katie Boland
- *Wildcard:* Staples High School—Westport, CT
Teacher: Suzanne Kammerman

- **Florida**

- *Winner:* Hialeah Gardens Senior High School—Hialeah Gardens, FL
Teacher: Dr. Derrick Johnson

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- **Illinois**

- *Winner:* Maine South High School–Park Ridge, IL
Teacher: Leah Politi / Co-Teachers: Kevin Hansen, Andy Trenkle
- *Wildcard:* St Joseph-Ogden High School–Saint Joseph, IL
Teacher: Marshall Schacht

- **Indiana**

- *Winner:* Hamilton Southeastern High School–Fishers, IN
Teacher: Janet Chandler
- *Wildcard:* Plainfield High School–Plainfield, IN
Teacher: Adam Ferguson

- **Kentucky**

- *Winner:* Highlands High School–Fort Thomas, KY
Teacher: Megan Boimann-Hennies

- **Maryland**

- *Winner:* Boonsboro High School–Boonsboro, MD
Teacher: Ashley Vascik

- **Massachusetts**

- *Winner:* Easthampton High School–Easthampton, MA
Teacher: Kelley Brown / Co-Teacher: Taylor Dadmun

- **Michigan**

- *Winner:* East Kentwood High School–Kentwood, MI
Teacher: Justin Robbins
- *Wildcard:* Pioneer High School–Ann Arbor, MI
Teacher: Alex Constantelos

- **Nevada**

- *Winner:* Reno High School–Reno, NV
Teacher: Richard Clark
- *Wildcard:* Incline High School–Incline Village, NV
Teacher: Milton Hyams
- *Open:* West Career and Technical Academy–Las Vegas, NV
Teacher: Ryan Handlon

- **New Hampshire**

- *Winner:* Hollis Brookline High School–Hollis, NH
Teacher: Trevor Duval, Justin Ballou

- **New Jersey**

- *Winner:* East Brunswick High School–East Brunswick, NJ
Teacher: Marc Mondry
- *Wildcard:* Marlboro High School–Marlboro, NJ
Teacher: Eric Yang

- **New Mexico**

- *Winner:* Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School–Albuquerque, NM
Teacher: William Torres

- **New York**

- *Winner:* James Madison High School–Brooklyn, NY
Teacher: Jeffrey Roth / Co-Teachers: Stacey Azoff, Robin Kovat, Marla Rutter
- *Wildcard:* Half Hollow Hills High School East–Dix Hills, NY
Teacher: David Pitman

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DEREK CHAUVIN TRIAL

Seeing the Chauvin Trial as a Teachable Moment

Students at a pre-law class at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School dissected the trial

By Ari Odzer • Published April 26, 2021 • Updated on April 26, 2021 at 7:50 pm

As the nation watched the Derek Chauvin verdict, there were some teachers thinking this was a fantastic learning opportunity for students -- and that brings us to a pre-law

As the nation watched the Derek Chauvin verdict, transfixed by the drama, there were some teachers thinking this was a fantastic learning opportunity for students -- and that brings us to a pre-law



"What did you guys notice about the technique that he used?" said teacher Derrick Johnson to his class, speaking about the defense attorney's strategy.

Johnson is a lawyer, so he showed his class how to dissect the Chauvin trial, from start to finish, as they watched as much of it as they could.

"Definitely they have an idea of the importance, the sheer gravity that's centered around this case," Johnson said. "This is one of those teachable moments, I do remember when I was roughly their age, I had a teachable moment when I witnessed the whole Rodney King situation."

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Johnson contrasted that famous Los Angeles case, in which video showed police beating King, with the Chauvin case. The officers involved in the King case were acquitted while Chauvin was convicted.

"Sad reality is that if this wasn't recorded, the officer probably would've gotten away with what he did," said one of the students, Erik Leon, during the class discussion.

"I really enjoyed the class discussions, we got to see both sides of the argument and discussing it is extremely eye-opening," said Rachel Gonzal

Local



43 MINS AGO

2nd suspect arrested in k



2 HOURS AGO

Who's Sessi, the singer in the viral video of a Sunny Isles Beach Police stop?

about the techniques used by the attorneys, the implications of the verdict on society, and the evidence, especially the video evidence.

"I think that this trial has just showed us the importance of videotaping everything you see and if you see anything wrong don't be scared to say anything about it," said Erik, who is a senior.

The video which the whole world saw, the video which provided the key evidence in this case, was shot by a 17-year-old girl and that fact is not lost on the students here.

"I think she's extremely brave," Rachel said, who is also 17. "This lasted for nine minutes and 23 seconds and she had to stand there to take that video and that video was the key evidence, I know I couldn't do it if I was put in her place."

As they discussed the implications of the verdict on police reform, Johnson asked his class, "What if any lessons do you think we can get from the whole Chauvin-Floyd case?"

"I'm not saying defund the police and all this stuff," Erik said, "But I do think reform needs to happen because if not these things are gonna keep happening, we just seen last week, the same things keep occurring."

Some of the students in Johnson's class might go on to become attorneys, some will not, but whatever they become, learning the lessons of the Chauvin trial might make them all better, more involved citizens.

This article tagged under:

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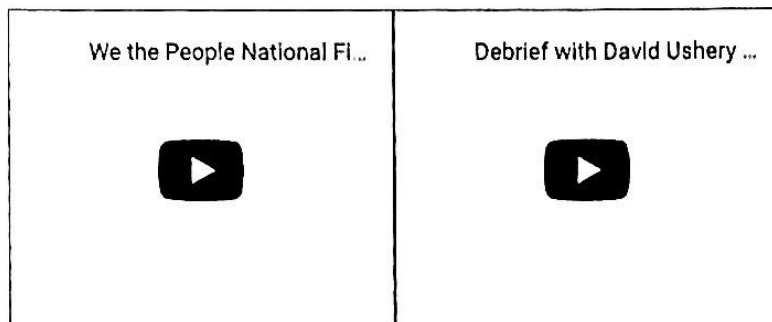
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Students

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Congratulations for participating in the 27th Annual We the People National Finals! On behalf of the Center for Civic Education, congratulations to each and every one of you for your scholarship, determination, and teamwork. We hope your experience in Washington, D.C. is one remembered throughout your entire life.

You may listen to my comments about your hard work preparing for the National Finals here (https://civiced.org/images/stories/WeThePeople/NationalFinals2011/Newsroom_-_Media_Kit/Leming-Students_Prep-WeThePeople.mp3) Good luck to you and your classmates!



Robert S. Leming, Director
We the People Programs
Center for Civic Education


27th Anniversary We the People National Finals Classes

State	School	Teacher
Alabama	Vestavia Hills High School	Amy Maddox & Jane Schaefer
Alaska	South Anchorage High School	Todd Heuston
Arizona	Corona del Sol High School	Timothy Smith
Arizona	Marcos De Niza High School (Wild Card)	Maureen Sneed
Arkansas	Valley View High School	Traci Smith
California	Amador Valley High School	Brian Ladd
Colorado	Grandview High School	Jeff Reiman
Connecticut	Trumbull High School	Katie Boland
Delaware	Lake Forest High School	Amy Reed
District Of Columbia	Cesar Chavez Public Charter School-Capitol Hill Campus	Krista Fantin
District Of Columbia	Cesar Chavez/Parkside Campus (Wild Card)	Daniel Kohn
Florida	School For Advanced Studies South	Derrick Johnson
Hawaii	Mililani High School	Amy Reed
Idaho	Blackfoot High School	Holly Kartchner
Idaho	Orofino Junior Senior High School (Wild Card)	Pamela Danielson
Illinois	Maine South High School	Andrew Trenkle
Indiana	Fishers High School	Elizabeth Paternoster


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Kansas	Blue Valley Northwest High School	Ken Thomas
Kentucky	Highlands High School	Megan Boimann-Hennies
Kentucky	Highlands High School (Wild Card)	Brian Robinson
Louisiana	Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies	Chris Totaro
Louisiana	John Ehret High School (Wild Card)	Bradley Kiff
Maine	Marshwood High School	Matthew Sanzone
Maryland	James H Blake High School	Donna Phillips
Maryland	Clear Spring High School (Wild Card)	Ashley Vascik
Massachusetts	Auburn High School	Vincent Benacchio & Spencer Kennard
Michigan	East Grand Rapids High School	Janice Yates
Missouri	Westminster Christian Academy	Ken Boesch
Missouri	Joplin High School (Warren E. Burger Class)	William Keczkemethy
Montana	Glacier High School	Beau Wright
Nebraska	Lincoln East High School	Kevin Rippe
Nevada	Incline High School	Milton Hyams
Nevada	Reno High School (Wild Card)	Richard Clark
New Hampshire	Milford High School	David Alcox
New Jersey	East Brunswick High School	Alan Brodman
New Mexico	Highland High School	Bob Coffey
New Mexico	Moriarty High School (Wild Card)	Amy Page
New York	Forest Hills High School	Tara Kelly
North Carolina	Raleigh Charter High School	Shayne Klein
North Carolina	Northwest Guilford High School (Wild Card)	Ray Parrish
Ohio	Findlay High School	Mark Dickman
Oregon	Lincoln High School	Tim Swinehart
Pennsylvania	Elizabethtown Area High School	James Sostack
South Carolina	Carolina Forest High School	Jonathan Iagulli
South Carolina	Wando High School (Wild Card)	Misty LeClerc
South Dakota	St Thomas More High School	Jeannine Gibson
Texas	Granbury High School	Cindy Leatherman
Utah	Sky View High School	Michael Rigby
Vermont	Essex High School	Timothy Root
Virginia	Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies	Samuel Ulmschneider
Washington	Tahoma High School	Gretchen Wulfig
Washington	Evergreen High School (Wild Card)	Patti McMaster
West Virginia	Shady Spring High School	Debby Gallaher
Wisconsin	Wauwatosa West High School	Chad Mateske
Wisconsin	Wauwatosa East High School (Wild Card)	Elaina Meier
Wyoming	Sheridan High School	Tyson Emborg

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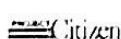
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November 1, 2014 Regular News

Under the leadership of Viana and Department of Social Sciences Executive Director Robert Brazofsky, the Miami-Dade County School District enjoys a reputation of the most expansive law programs in the state, with courtrooms on school campuses, wide-ranging elective law courses for middle- and high-school students, quality professional development opportunities for teachers, and many law-related education competitions and showcases that energize students to learn about the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the law.

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LOCAL NEWS

Love My Teacher: Dr. Derrick Johnson



June 11, 2012 / 6:34 PM EDT / CBS Miami

MIAMI (CBS4) - School may be out for the summer, but CBS4 continues to celebrate those educators who go above and beyond in South Florida classrooms. This month we're sharing the story of Dr. Derrick Johnson.

Dr. Johnson teaches at The School for Advanced Studies, which is located on four campuses of Miami-Dade College. It is a full-time dual-enrollment high school; a combined effort between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami-Dade College.

Students who attend SAS often graduate with their high school diploma and an Associate in Arts degree.

CBS4 Anchor Rhiannon Ally went to the Kendall location to recognize Dr. Derrick Johnson, the future.



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beyond the classroom.

"I believe in making a connection. A nexus between what occurs in the class and what happens outside in society as a whole," explained Dr. Johnson.

Principal Omar Monteagudo said Dr. Johnson goes the extra mile.

"The students are able to step up to the plate and respond to him. He brings this incredible energy and passion," said Monteagudo.

Students describe Dr. Johnson as always being there for them and students need a teacher like him.

"You can't perform well if you don't feel you have someone giving you the knowledge that you need to get there," said student Lisset Pino.

The school boasts an impressive 100-percent graduation rate this year, thanks to the hard work of teachers like Dr. Johnson.

Even though he attended law school, Dr. Johnson knew he wanted to be a teacher from a young age.

"My passion in part comes from my parents. They were both teachers and growing up in that environment you appreciate the art form of teaching," he explained.

He said SAS students are unique, in part, because of their ambition and that makes his job fun.



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one eager to learn, how you

CBS4 recently surprised Dr. Johnson with our special "Love My Teacher" award.

"I'm very humbled by it. I feel very gratified. It was a complete surprise," he said.

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First published on June 11, 2012 / 6:34 PM EDT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, May 7, 2013

CONTACT: John Schuster
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
305-995-1126

**SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (SAS) WINS
2013 STATE MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

The School for Advanced Studies' (SAS) Moot Court Team competed in the Florida Moot Court Competition in Tallahassee, on May 2-3, 2013. The team, comprised of Jennifer Mosquera and Lisset Pino-Ros, advanced through various levels, ultimately arguing their case in the final round at the Florida Supreme Court. The final round was judged by the Florida Supreme Court Justices.

The SAS team was selected as the 2013 Florida State Moot Court Champions. This is the second time in three years that SAS has placed first statewide. In 2012, the school placed second.

The competition is sponsored by the Florida Law Related Association. The SAS coach is Dr. Derrick Johnson, SAS AP American government teacher.

Editor's Note: Photo Attached.



The SAS 2013 Moot Court Team (left- right) Jennifer Mosquera, Dr. Derrick Johnson, and Lisset Pino-Ros.

#

013-JJS/100/VVL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, February 28, 2013

CONTACT: John Schuster
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
305-995-1126

SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES WINS 2013 MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION AND ADVANCES TO STATE

School for Advanced Studies' (SAS) Mock Trial Team earned first place at the recent Miami-Dade County District High School Competition. The finals were held at the historic Miami-Dade County Courthouse, where SAS defeated Law Enforcement Officers Memorial High School in the semi-finals and Our Lady of Lourdes in the final round, earning the opportunity to represent the county at State.

Over the course of two weeks, the SAS team competed against several senior high schools in Miami-Dade County, ultimately defeating the district reigning champions for the past several years, Our Lady of Lourdes. The SAS Team advanced to compete in the State Mock Trial Competition to be held March 6-8, 2013 in Orlando.

The SAS Team was comprised of the following students:

- 1.) Lisset M. Pino-Ros (Lead Prosecution Counsel)
- 2.) Jennifer Mosquera (Lead Defense Counsel/Witness)
- 3.) Nicole Matamala (Counsel)
- 4.) Nicole Cabanez (Counsel)
- 5.) Krystal Hernandez (Lead Witness)
- 6.) Angelica Krauss (Supporting Witness)
- 7.) Regina Monge (Expert Witness)
- 8.) Aaron Zahoran (Expert Witness)
- 9.) Jessica Vallori (Exec. Asst. Coach)
- 10.) Dario Nunez (Alt. Counsel)
- 11.) Rebecca Lester (Alt. Counsel)
- 12.) Jonathan Zalkin (Alt. Witness)
- 13.) Nicole Fierro (Alt. Witness)
- 14.) Jesus Martinez (Alt. Witness)
- 15.) Crystal Quach (Chief Bailiff)
- 16.) Demy Alfonso (Bailiff)
- 17.) Natasha Durkee (Bailiff)
- 18.) Briana Paiewonsky (Bailiff)

The Team Sponsor was Dr. Derrick Johnson, an AP American government teacher at the school.

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13-JJS/039/DF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 3, 2012

CONTACT: John Schuster
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
305-995-1126

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES MOOT COURT TEAM TO
DEFEND ITS TITLE IN TALLAHASSEE, MAY 10**

- WHO:** Moot Court Team students Lisset Pino and Jennifer Mosquera and Moot Court sponsor Dr. Derrick Johnson, School for Advanced Studies Social Studies teacher
- WHAT:** Third District Court of Appeals Moot Court Winners to compete at State Moot Court Competition
- WHEN:** Thursday, May 10, 2012
- WHERE:** Florida Supreme Court
Tallahassee, Florida
- WHY:** The Moot Court team at the School for Advanced Studies Kendall Campus has been selected as the winner of the Third District Court of Appeals Moot Court 2012 competition. They will go to Tallahassee to compete against teams from the other four Court of Appeals Districts in the state of Florida. Team sponsor Dr. Derrick Johnson was recently selected as the 2012 Teacher of the Year by the Dade County Council for Social Sciences.
- CONTACT:** For more information, contact School for Advanced Studies Principal Dr. Omar Monteagudo at 305-237-0510.

Editor's Note: Photo Attached