



Resolution on Renewing Civic Education as a National Priority

Whereas, the Judicial Branch Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the governing body of the federal courts, has established a Subcommittee on Civic Education; and

Whereas, the Subcommittee sponsored a conference on June 19, 2002 attended by members of the Judicial Branch committee and leaders of national civic education organizations; and

Whereas, all participants in the conference recognize the central importance of civic education to justice and the rule of law in a democratic society; and

Whereas, a high level of civic disengagement, especially among the young, demands a recommitment to education for active and effective citizenship; and

Whereas, a concerted national effort is required to inform public opinion about the value of renewing the promise of American democracy and the rule of law through civic education; and

Whereas, concerted public and academic action is needed to review and re-establish civic education as a high priority in schools and public life; and

Whereas, the experience, leadership, and expertise of civic education organizations is crucial to the realignment of educational priorities; and

Whereas, the role of these organizations in developing public awareness is central to fostering the civic mission of education; and

Whereas, the time has come for a united effort to reestablish the civic mission of all schools; therefore

Be it resolved that civic education be established as a high priority for all educational institutions as vital to nurturing the democratic impulse and the civic participation of young Americans.

Honorable Frank C. Damrell, Jr.
U.S. District Court, Eastern District, California
Chair, Subcommittee on Civic Education

ORGANIZATIONS

American Bar Association <i>Division of Public Education</i>	Constitutional Rights Foundation
American Federation of Teachers	Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
American Inns of Court Foundation	Council of the Chief State School Officers
American Political Science Association	Federal Bar Association
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development	National Association of Secondary School Principals
Center for Civic Education	National Council for the Social Studies
Close Up Foundation	Street Law, Inc.
	Youth Service America

INDIVIDUALS

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This resolution is a living document that can be endorsed by contacting the Federal Courts' National Outreach Manager Rebecca Fanning at rebecca_fanning@ao.uscourts.gov

