



## COURTS 4 CIVICS

*Through the Courts4Civics initiative, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit promotes civics education in our schools and communities. Read on to find out about ongoing initiatives and to discover how you can get involved!*

### Courts4Civics Cohosts Teacher Institute in Richmond



On July 23, Courts4Civics partnered with the John Marshall Center at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture to host a day-long Teacher Institute in Richmond, “Civics & the Judiciary.” At this inaugural event, 18 teacher-participants spent the morning at the museum touring and learning from Caroline Legros, Manager of Civics Education at the John Marshall Center and from Professor Henry Chambers, Jr., of the University of Richmond School of Law.

Most teachers were from the Richmond-area, but several traveled from further locations including southern West Virginia and northern Virginia. The Institute was held in conjunction with the John Marshall Center’s new [Civics Connects](#) program, an initiative for Virginia teachers that includes lesson plans and activities to aid in delivering content aligned with state and national civics education standards.

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In the afternoon, the teachers visited the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Courthouse in Richmond. They participated in a tour and a discussion with a panel of judges in a courtroom. The panel of judges included Judge Roger L. Gregory and Judge Barbara Milano Keenan from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and Judge John A. Gibney, Jr. from the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Talking with teachers about their roles in and paths to the judiciary, the judges also shared stories and personal experiences and addressed questions posed by the teachers. Many members of the Fourth Circuit staff and interns from the Court of Appeals of Virginia joined the group for the judges’ panel discussion. Judge Keenan, the moderator of the panel and Courts4Civics Chair, stated that “teachers play a vital role in educating future generations about civics, so as judges we appreciate the opportunity to connect with teachers and to share our sincere appreciation for their important and difficult work.”

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Participants surveyed overwhelmingly enjoyed the Institute. One teacher found most valuable the “place-based learning” environment and the “willingness of judges” to engage “openly” with the participants. Legros stated that she is “delighted by the success of the Institute. The program served as a rare opportunity for classroom educators to engage in discussion with civics experts, legal scholars and prominent members of the judiciary; teachers are clamoring for content like this!”



If you have hosted a teacher-event in your courthouse or would like assistance in hosting such an event, please reach out to the Courts4Civics committee at [civics@ca4.uscourts.gov](mailto:civics@ca4.uscourts.gov).

*Read this article on the Courts4Civics [website](#)*



# Civics Champion Spotlight

*Celebrating outreach efforts in local communities*

## Judge A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit



Judge Quattlebaum volunteers with the YMCA of Greenville, South Carolina. When asked about his time meeting with students, Judge Quattlebaum said that his "most pleasant surprise" was the students' participation level. "From the standard classes to the advanced placement classes, I have found that the students really enjoy sharing their thoughts about our legal system."

[Read about Judge Quattlebaum's outreach efforts here](#)

See all [Civics Champion Spotlights](#)

## From Classroom to Courtroom: A Lawyer's Perspective on Civility and Mentoring in the Small Moments



Jessica Carmichael is a federal criminal defense lawyer based in Alexandria, Virginia. After Jessica volunteered with the Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions program last year, one of the student participants followed up to learn more about careers in criminal defense. Jessica answered the call.

[Read Jessica's story](#)

## Fourth Circuit Judges Preside over July 4 Naturalization Ceremonies



"Democracy is not a spectator sport, so please take the field and let your voices be heard," Chief Judge Diaz stated as he welcomed 74 new citizens from 36 countries at a naturalization ceremony on July 4.

Visit the [Courts4Civics website](#) to read about or watch the two July 4 naturalization ceremonies over which judges from the Fourth Circuit presided.

## Fourth Circuit Portrait Collection Now Available Online



The Fourth Circuit's tradition of honoring judges with portraits began on December 15, 1923, when Senior Judge John C. Rose presided over a special session organized to receive the first four portraits in the Fourth Circuit's collection. Members of the public can view these portraits in the Powell Courthouse, and the portraits are also available with accompanying biographical information in a new [online collection](#) compiled by the Fourth Circuit Library and Archives.

## Help Us Spread the Word

Promote civics education by forwarding this email to a friend, colleague, educator, or family member!

### About Courts4Civics

An initiative of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Courts4Civics promotes civics education in our schools and communities, to create learning opportunities and to increase public understanding of how courts work to resolve disputes in our society and to protect our constitutional rights.

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