



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **CONTACT**

Dinah Milton Kinney: (203) 773-2140

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

New Haven, CT - District of Connecticut Chief Judge Stefan R. Underhill enthusiastically announced today that the District of Connecticut has launched a new civic education resources webpage which lists over 20 educational opportunities for Connecticut schools and community groups.

"We are happy to offer meaningful civic educational programs for students and community groups as part of our robust public outreach efforts, and to offer opportunities aimed at educating people about the Federal Court and the important role that it plays in our community," said Chief United States District Judge Stefan R. Underhill.

As part of its mission, the court strives to educate students and the public about the important role that the federal courts, judges, and lawyers play in upholding democracy and preserving the rule of law.

Since 2010, the court's judges and staff have worked in partnership with local attorneys, educators, students, and community groups to open the federal courthouses in Connecticut to a broad range of learning opportunities organized through its Public Outreach Committee.

Judge Alvin W. Thompson, chair of the Court's Public Outreach Committee, said, "Creating a partnership that includes educators, students, federal judges, attorneys, and court personnel is the bedrock of our public outreach program. As we open the doors of the federal courthouse, we hope that we also open the minds and imaginations of our youth so that they may envision themselves as our nation's future jurists and lawyers. But if, or especially if, they go into a field other than the law, we hope they will carry with them an understanding of and appreciation for the importance of the rule of law to our society."

The new webpage offers a diverse menu of available educational programs, such as having a judge read a story to elementary school students, learning about the law from practicing attorneys, attending a legal career panel, attending a naturalization ceremony, and participating in a Q&A session with a judge.

Many of the programs can be conducted remotely on platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams. In 2021, the Court reached over 2,000 students across Connecticut.

School teachers, administrators, and public community groups can find more information and contact the court through its webpage at: <https://www.ctd.uscourts.gov/public-outreach>