

Legal Survival Skills for Teenagers
A Project of the Orange County (CA) Bar Association
Presented to the National Conference of Bar Presidents on behalf of the
Metropolitan Bar Caucus
11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. Hyatt Regency, Miami, Florida
Friday, February 9, 2007

Goal: The primary goal is to help prepare pre-adults in Orange County, California to understand the laws of the society in which they live. A secondary goal will be to expose these pre-adults to some excellent role models (attorney volunteers) and potentially spur an interest in law as a career. The OCBA expect to reach over 5000 seniors in 64 different high schools with this program during the school year and hundreds more at community centers during the summer.

Methods: Joe Chairez, OCBA President-Elect, will appoint 15 members to serve as the committee, and will teach these “early responders” how to present the materials to pre-adult teens. (aka teaching the teachers) The trained OCBA committee members will train approximately 200 volunteers to give presentations at local schools and community centers or wherever pre-adult teens gather in classroom-like settings throughout the year. OCBA staff will coordinate the schedule of presentations and volunteers.

The OCBA will reach out to the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County to participate in the Business Issues Conference in March and the Law Day Conference in May where hundreds of high school students are expected to attend. Volunteers might also speak at high schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Tiger Woods Learning Center, YMCA and other community service centers that have gatherings of pre-adults. Presentations will also be coordinated in high schools for the OCBA Law Day activities.

Target audience: High school juniors and seniors, boys and girls ages 15-18. The presentations can be tailored to a high achieving group (more emphasis on law as a career) or to a wider range of academic abilities.

Volunteer Profile: Any OCBA member who is willing to speak to this age-group and attend a training session could qualify to be a volunteer. OCBA members who speak more than one language will be matched with groups that have those same demographics. The OCBA expects to train approximately 200 volunteers for this project.

Materials: Different language versions of the publication “When You Become 18: A Survival Guide for Teenagers” will be procured from the State Bar of California and given to teens that attend OCBA presentations. This publication covers many law related topics relevant to 18 year olds in today’s society. Committee members will receive a Power Point presentation for use in “training the trainers.” Each presentation is expected to take approximately 30-45 minutes, allowing time for some questions and answers during the classroom time.

Teachable Moments: According to the Orange County Department of Education, volunteers should be ready to explore topics further and take advantage of “teachable moments” when students seem particularly interested in a topic. The presentations will be flexible in that more time can be spent on topics of interest to each audience. The Department of Education has requested that volunteers be sure to cover three areas in the materials: Age of Majority, Moving Out and Money Matters.