

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public understanding of our government, our rights and responsibilities and our legal system may be at an all-time low. In many states, the teaching of civics is not even required. Bars across the country are developing programs to address this alarming problem. The ABA Division for Public Education has a comprehensive website dealing with these issues at <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/home.html>.

See also the law related education site of the National Center for State Courts located at <http://www.ncsconline.org/wc/CourTopics/overview.asp?topic=LawEdu>.

For good examples of state bar programs, please see:

1. Florida Supreme Court Justice Teaching Institute located at <http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/education/jti.shtml>. See also the Florida Law Related Education Association located at <http://www.flrea.org>.

2. The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education located at <http://www.lalce.org/TheLouisianaCenterfor.asp>.

3. The Washington State Bar Association Council on Public Legal Education located at <http://www.wsba.org/ple/>.

For a good example of a local bar approach, see the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis Approach to Law Related Programs located at <http://www.bamsl.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=4>.