



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

**DATE:** September 8, 2017  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT: Rule of Law Project**

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce that The Virginia Bar Association (VBA) and The Virginia Law Foundation (VLF) will sponsor the annual VBA Rule of Law Project in the fall of 2017 and the spring of 2018. Begun as a pilot project in 2009, the VBA's Rule of Law Project is an educational program taught by volunteer citizen lawyers and judges in Virginia and is specifically designed to enhance the teaching of the rule of law to middle school civics students in public and private schools throughout the state.

The educational program materials for the VBA Rule of Law Project consist of:

- a Web-based curriculum that includes a description of the VBA Rule of Law Project, a training video for teachers and lawyers to use in preparing for the Rule of Law Project, reading lists, previsitation instructional ideas for teachers, visitation day writing/discussion prompts, and lesson plans. The curriculum also includes a high resolution movie file of the VBA "The Law Rules," a video featuring prominent lawyers and judges talking about the history and meaning of the rule of law, and a form for use by teachers in evaluating each class as an enhancement to the general civics curriculum; and
- contact information for teachers and lawyers who desire additional assistance in preparing for the project.

The Project's curriculum is Web-based ([www.thecenterforruleoflaw.org](http://www.thecenterforruleoflaw.org)), and its educational materials have been developed by educators, administrators, parents, judges, and lawyers in collaboration with local school officials.

The Project is funded by a grant from The Virginia Law Foundation. If you have administrative questions regarding the administration of the Project, please contact Bryan Horn (Regions 1, 2, 3, and 8) at [bhorn@fgb.com](mailto:bhorn@fgb.com) or John Koehler (Regions 4, 5, 6, and 7) at [jkoehler@thecenterforruleoflaw.org](mailto:jkoehler@thecenterforruleoflaw.org). Education questions regarding the content of the project should be directed to H. Timothy (Tim) Isaacs by email at [tisaacs@thecenterforruleoflaw.org](mailto:tisaacs@thecenterforruleoflaw.org) or by telephone at (540) 375-5776. Additional information is available from Betsy Barton at the Virginia Department of education at [Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone (804)225-3454.

SRS/BSB/pk