



NATIONAL
YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
FORUM

LAW

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The **National Youth Leadership Forum on Law (NYLF/LAW)**, held in Washington, D.C., offers students an intense and stimulating six-day exploration of the legal profession. During the Forum on Law, America's brightest high school students have the opportunity to interact with distinguished legal scholars and practitioners, participate in seminars on current legal issues and visit some of the nation's top law schools, prestigious Washington law firms, local and federal courtrooms and the United States Supreme Court. The Forum's hands-on interactive curriculum is designed so that site explorations, speaker topics and simulation exercises complement each other for a truly integrated and meaningful educational experience.

Speakers — Forum on Law scholars are addressed by nationally-recognized legal professionals. These speakers provide rare insights on current issues, discuss their rise to the pinnacle of the legal profession and engage in question and answer sessions with the students.

Law School Visits — During visits to area law schools, Forum participants have the opportunity to gain more insights into legal education through interaction with admissions officers, law professors and current law students. Students also get a sense of the law school experience through participation in a mock law school class.

Law Practice and Judicial Visits — Washington's most prestigious law firms, federal agencies, advocacy organizations and local and federal courts welcome Forum on Law participants. During sessions at area law firms, partners and associates discuss their firm's operations, review recent cases to illustrate the realities of daily practice and answer questions on many areas of the legal profession. While visiting advocacy organizations and federal agencies, students are given exposure to additional facets of legal work. Courthouse visits offer students the opportunity to see firsthand the judicial process in action.

Seminars — Students also have the opportunity to engage in small group discussions and debates on challenging legal issues, such as school prayer, the death penalty and physician-assisted suicide. Practicing attorneys, legal scholars and representatives of various groups lead these sessions. In addition, Forum participants spend an evening investigating specialties within the legal field, such as corporate, public interest and litigation law.

Simulations — Through student-led simulation activities, Forum on Law scholars gain an understanding of the judicial process and develop critical reasoning, communication and leadership skills. A mock trial allows students to experience trial court procedures. During the trial, students interact in a courtroom environment, reviewing basic trial procedure and then taking on various roles within a courtroom. Students also look at various ethical issues that face attorneys today. They examine proper procedural conduct during a case, as well as personal ethics that guide a lawyer in everyday decisions. In a weeklong activity, students conduct a mock Supreme Court hearing based on an actual case. Participants analyze and argue the constitutionality of the issue at hand. Taking on the roles of attorneys and justices, students gain experience in reading briefs, questioning attorneys, making decisions and writing opinions.

BACKGROUND

About NYLF — The National Youth Leadership Forum is an educational organization founded to help prepare young people with scholastic merit and strong leadership potential for their future professional careers. Since its founding in 1992, over 100,000 students have attended NYLF programs. Additional information on NYLF and its programs can be found at www.nylf.org.

Participants — NYLF/LAW enrolls high school sophomores, juniors and seniors from diverse backgrounds who possess academic promise, leadership potential and a strong interest in the legal profession. Students are nominated to attend the program by educators, youth organization advisors, NYLF alumni and through classroom surveys.

Funding — The National Youth Leadership Forum is funded through student tuition. Students who require financial assistance may request a copy of the Forum's Student Fundraising Guide to help raise funds in order to earn their way to the Forum. NYLF also awards a limited number of competitive scholarships based upon financial need, scholastic merit, leadership achievements and other factors.

FACT SHEET