

NO DUTY TO RETREAT



RUN AWAY OR FIGHT?

CODE WEST NEWS FROM (OUT)LAW & ORDER



IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Hello Friends and Colleagues!](#)
- [In the Students' Words...](#)
- [New Partnerships](#)
 - [The Huntington-USC Institute for the Study of California and the West](#)
 - [LAUSD Arts Community Partnership Network](#)
 - [LAUSD's Beyond the Bell After School Programs](#)
- [Recent Grants Awarded](#)
- [A Final Thought to Carry Forward](#)



Hello Friends and Colleagues!

We have begun our third year of (Out)Law & Order, and our first year as an approved partner in the new Arts Partnership Community Network of the Los Angeles Unified School District. In addition, we welcome two extraordinary individuals to our advisory board: Judge Judith C. Chirlin of the Los Angeles Superior Court and William Deverell, historian and director of the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West.

—Lisa Citron
Executive Director
lisacitron@outlawandorder.org

[back to top](#)



In the Students' Words...

This last fall we were pleased and somewhat amazed to receive an email out of the blue from a student just beginning high school. We thought that the excitement and challenge of ninth grade would far overshadow the last year in middle school. But no. In September, Eduardo Rivera wrote: "I was a part of the (Out)Law & Order program at Northridge M.S.(2003-2004) I just wanted to say what a great experience that was for me. I hope this program can go on for many years to come. THANKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

"It taught me about laws and history that I never knew."

—Kejaninae Clayton, John Muir Middle School

[back to top](#)



New Partnerships

An impressive range of prestigious scholars and educators have agreed to apply their expertise and resources to support (Out)Law & Order. Here are few of the highlights.

1. [The Huntington-USC Institute for the Study of California and the West](#), under the direction of noted historian William Deverell. The Institute will provide not only scholarly oversight, but also host professional development workshops. In addition, Professor Deverell has recently joined the (Out)Law & Order Advisory Board.
2. [LAUSD Arts Community Partnership Network](#) has made (Out)Law & Order an approved arts providers. Membership means that LAUSD will pay for a small portion of our services.
3. [LAUSD's Beyond the Bell After School Programs](#) created a challenge grant to individual donors and foundations to launch the (Out)Law & Order After School and a 3-Day (Out)Law & Order Spring Retreat in school year 2005-2006.
4. **California State University, Los Angeles, Carl Selkin, Dean of Arts and Letters** aims to provide prospective teachers with field experience through hands-on learning of (Out)Law & Order teaching strategies that encourage experiential learning in depth.

[back to top](#)

"We contemporized history and made it relate to us."

—Sonia Kim, Palms Middle School

The Huntington-USC Institute for the Study of California and the West

In an innovative partnership, (Out)Law & Order has teamed up with Huntington-USC Institute for the Study of California and the West to strengthen and expand (Out)Law & Order's focus on western American history through scholarly oversight, the invaluable resources. The Institute is a scholarly center dedicated to examining California's history, economy, cultural influence, demographics and prominence on the world stage of the Huntington Library, and the University of Southern California's College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Our relationship positions (Out)Law & Order to advance our mission to foster a civil just society through a sustained and focused curriculum at the

intersection of theatre arts, history, language arts and civics education.

The partnership provides a multiplier effect, giving us resources we wouldn't otherwise have to teach students to know themselves as capable citizens in a democratic society—observing, creating, reflecting, making choices, and taking responsibility for their actions in the world. The goals are to improve literacy and critical thinking, nurture a deepened interest in academic study, and teach effective conflict-resolution to reduce youth violence.

[back to top](#)

**“I learned how to see the story from different views.”
— Tom Le, Northridge Middle School**

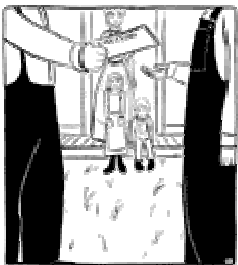
LAUSD Arts Community Partnership Network

This year marks an exciting new relationship between (Out)Law & Order and the Los Angeles Unified School District, one in which teachers and students benefit from a new kind of partnership with Los Angeles area arts organizations across the field of music, visual arts, theatre and dance). (Out)Law & Order is joined by 46 other distinguished arts organizations including The Music Center, LA Opera, LA Master Chorale and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Called the Arts Community Partnership Network, this network of arts providers creates the possibility for sustained arts education with LAUSD funding to help support it. Despite massive cuts in the budget throughout the District, arts funding was preserved by Richard Burrows, the director of the Arts Education Branch for LAUSD.

The interdisciplinary standards-based curriculum developed by (Out)Law & Order meets the diverse needs and multiple learning styles of middle school students. In many cases this is the first time that students become interested in American history and English as a result of connecting their experiences to the high drama of the Old West through theatre activities and writing and performing in their (Out)Law & Order plays. With your support, (Out)Law & Order is proud to be a member of this innovative effort in arts education.

[back to top](#)



LAUSD's Beyond the Bell After School Programs

The \$50,000 challenge grant created by Beyond The Bell to support an (Out)Law & Order After School program and 3-day Retreat extends the experiential learning taking place in the classroom. An after-school program will free students from the constraints of the classroom hour and provide four additional hours a week to discuss and explore their relationship to violence and justice and to increase the amount of time learning and practicing the skills of making theatre.

Beyond the Bell oversees all Extended Day Programs in LAUSD. This includes bringing a sense of coordination, support, guidance and leadership to all programs operating beyond the traditional school day, before and after-school and on Saturdays.

(Out)Law & Order After School will focus on theatre activities with the objectives of reducing youth violence and increasing the experiential learning of conflict-resolution skills. It will expand time for facilitated discussion with goal-directed dialogue to increase students' awareness of the origins of attitudes and behaviors that contribute to bias, bigotry, prejudice and discrimination.

Two months prior to their culminating performances the (Out)Law & Order 3-Day Retreat will bring together students from participating schools in the early spring. Students from each school as will literally cross into new frontiers—meeting students from neighborhoods that are not their own. As they develop theatre skills students will discover their commonalities, develop cross-city relationships, as well as provide workshop experience with an audience.

[back to top](#)



Recent Grants Awarded

We're pleased to announce that *(Out)Law & Order* has been awarded grants by the:

- J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation
- City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department

These funds will contribute to the implementation of the key ideas and questions raised by *(Out)Law & Order*. Specifically, how to make documentation and group learning an integral part of making learning and teaching visible.

We are grateful to Marjorie Fasman for her recent gift that will also support our ongoing teacher education where the classroom processes and outcomes involved are vital to both teaching and learning.

[back to top](#)

(Out)Law & Order is a challenging, new American history and theatre project in three Los Angeles middle schools. The subjects: Honor, Courage, Violence, and Justice—as they were in the Old West, and as they are today in students' own lives and consciousness. From the perils of the "Gunfighter Nation," to the struggles of diverse peoples for their places on America's fiercely "contested western ground," the standards-based (Out)Law & Order program immerses eighth-graders in the myths, and the realities, of the western frontier. At the same time, students bring to the classroom their special knowledge of what it takes to "stand your ground" on the urban frontier. The program culminates at year-end with student-created (Out)Law & Order plays, performed at the schools and at the Wells Fargo Theatre at the Autry National Center. A 13-minute video promo of the first year's dramatic performances at the Wells Fargo Theatre is available for viewing.

Some images in this newsletter are from the (Out)Law & Order student textbook, designed by Rene Neri and illustrated by Rachell Sumpter. This page is part of the (Out)Law & Order web site.

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(Out)Law & Order 2004 performances were made possible, in part, by a grant from the California Council for the Humanities as part of the Council's statewide California Stories Initiative. The Council is an independent non-profit organization and a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information on the Council and the California Stories Initiative, visit www.californiastories.org.

