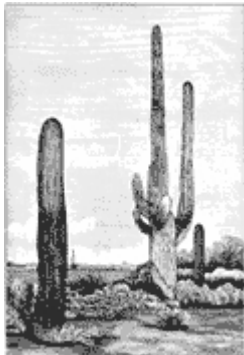


# CODE WEST NEWS FROM (OUT)LAW & ORDER



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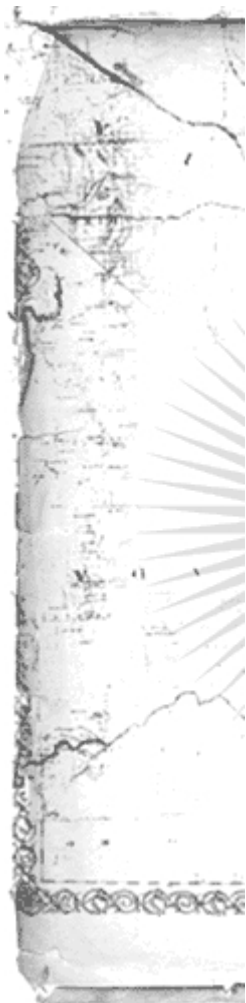


## Hello Friends and Colleagues!

We have much exciting news to report from the Western frontier. First, (Out)Law & Order has recently received two more outstanding letters of recommendation from leading scholars in the field of education. Additionally, (Out)Law & Order has been accepted as a new project by Community Partners. This partnership will provide an important resource for fiscal sponsorship, and more. Read on!

—Lisa Citron  
Executive Director  
[lisacitron@outlawandorder.org](mailto:lisacitron@outlawandorder.org)

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## Recent Letters of Support

From Steve Seidel, Ed. D., Director of Project Zero, a world-renowned research group at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

*"I review educational programs and materials frequently and am rarely as impressed as I am by yours. It is easy for me to imagine how attractive and engaging this work must be to your middle school students in Los Angeles. The ideas and the processes you engage them with are compelling and you seem to respect the complexity of these ideas and processes, rather than trying to simplify them, which is always exciting to young people."* [Download a PDF of this letter](#)(534K)

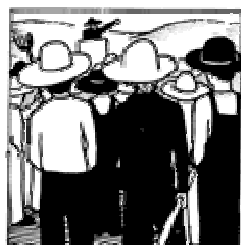
From Pedro Noguera Ph.D., a professor at the Steinhardt School of Education, New York University:

*With its explicit focus on the role of violence in U.S. history, (Out)Law & Order uses theater to encourage young people to think critically about the role of violence in their communities and in our society....the materials that have been developed are very effective at getting students and teachers motivated and excited about the study of history.* [Download a PDF of this letter](#)(208K)

As one of America's most important voices on education reform and diversity, Professor Noguera has focused his work on ways schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment. From 2000 - 2003 he was the Judith K. Dimon Professor of Communities and Schools at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. From 1990 - 2000 he was Professor in Social and Cultural Studies at the Graduate School of Education and the Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of California, Berkeley. He has acted as advisor and engaged in collaborative research with major urban school districts throughout the United States, and is presently an advisor to (Out)Law & Order. Articles by Dr. Noguera are available in easy-to-print-out-and-bind PDF format from In Motion Magazine

While directing Project Zero, Steve Seidel continues his work as a Research Associate and Principal Investigator, and as Lecturer on Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. For over 30 years Project Zero has investigated ways in which learning processes actually occur in children, adults, and organizations. How such processes occur is at the core of (Out)Law & Order, which combines three vital ways for young people at the critical stage of adolescence to learn, through the study of history, theater arts, and their own experience, about the roots of violence, and how they affect the lives of young people just like themselves.

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## (Out)Law & Order Joins Community Partners

Community Partners provides a range of services to assist individuals, organizations and institutions in effectively addressing the complex social, economic and policy issues facing the Southern California region. Community Partners, provides (Out)Law & Order fiscal sponsorship so that we can receive funding and tax-deductible donations, as well as serving as an incubator providing basic infrastructure services. Becoming a Community Partners project

also provides us with the mentorship essential for (Out)Law & Order becoming a successful, independent non-profit organization.

For the past three years (Out)Law & Order has received the generous support of the Center for Civic Education. The Center provided their tax-deductible non-profit 501(c)(3) status so that we could begin our work, and most importantly, they have served as an established model of success. The Center's national and international instructional programs on the history and principles of American constitutional democracy for elementary, middle, and high school students inspires, and we sincerely thank the Center for their remarkable support in our fledgling first three years.

As a project of Community Partners, (Out)Law & Order will benefit from a range of services that include receiving tax-deductible charitable contributions, payment of project expenses, budget workshops, strategic counsel on program planning, and feedback on program effectiveness. Most importantly, Community Partners will assist in the long-term planning of the broadening of the reach and services of (Out)Law & Order.

We're pleased that The Project Review Committee sees promise in (Out)Law & Order's ability to strengthen the civic and social fabric that connects people, neighborhoods and institutions of Southern California. They see that we're affecting change, real change in students' perceptions of their world around them. Maybe I'm preaching to the choir here, but that's what we're all about. The Teachers and Teaching Artists see the effect studying the old West has on students. They get to see the students' "breakthrough moments" when they realize that they have a role in shaping their communities. It's really fantastic to know that other highly-regarded organizations also see the power and potential magnitude of this program, and that they're willing to commit to supporting us.

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### **At last, a web site for (Out)Law & Order**

We can finally announce that the (Out)Law & Order web site is officially under construction! Thanks to the generous talents of Brady Houghton and Oscar Genel, student members of the Otis Design Group at Otis College of Art and Design, and their faculty advisor Hugo Espinosadiseño, and chair of Communication Arts, Ave Pildas. Their graphic design became accessible online as a result of the indefatigable energies of Alberto Palacios, principal of The C2C Group based in Washington, DC. This site is also indebted to the significant contributions of René Neri, and to artist, Rachell Sumpter, who designed and illustrated the (Out)Law & Order work/textbook respectively. Further counsel was provided by the creator of GeoCities, an Internet based media and e-commerce company, David Bohnett. Mr. Bohnett's current activities include serving as the Chairman of the David Bohnett Foundation. You can see for yourself how talented these folks are. We think they've done a fantastic job, but you are this site's first readers. Tell us what you think! We would love to hear your thoughts and opinions.

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## The Day of Reckoning Approaches:

**SAVE THIS DATE and HOUR!!**

Date: Wednesday, June 2nd

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Autry National Center, Museum of the American West, in the Wells Fargo Theater

It's that time of year again. The students have put in long hours (not to mention the teachers and theatre artists), and now the fruits of their labors will be put on stage.

Five "history-making" plays that take you from the Western Frontier to the Urban Frontier. American History brought to the living stage by students at Palms, Northridge and John Muir Middle Schools. They will present their culminating projects in a public performance of their plays at the Autry National Center in the Wells Fargo Theater. We cordially invite you to take part in an evening inspired by a civil and just society. (Out)Law & Order. Where the Code of the West Meets the Code of the Street ... in the classroom. Make your reservations here: [reservations@outlawandorder.org](mailto:reservations@outlawandorder.org)

We cordially invite each of you to take part in what promises to be an inspired evening.

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## A New Advisor

(Out)Law & Order is proud to announce that we have a new advisor in Ray Ramirez, Vice President for Development for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). For the past thirty years Ray has been directly involved with education: first as a K-8 teacher and administrator for fourteen years, then as a policy analyst, a Legislative Analyst for US Senator Jeff Bingaman, as a Director of a National Education Program.

MALDEF's mission—steadfast over the past 35 years—is to promote educational excellence, employment opportunity, economic development, and greater civic participation on behalf of Hispanics and all Americans. MALDEF has been at the forefront of civil rights litigation, setting precedent in many cases and establishing new systems to educate children, hire and promote employees, and elect officials. As an advisor, Ray Ramirez will provide a wonderful influx of energy and wisdom to (Out)Law & Order.

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## Gift of Bequest

Last but certainly not least, we would like to extend our gratitude to Marjorie Fasman who has made a bequest of \$20,000 to (Out)Law & Order. We are grateful to Ms. Fasman's vision for the future of (Out)Law & Order.

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(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.

Images in this newsletter are from the (Out)Law & Order student textbook, designed by Rene Neri and illustrated by Rachell Sumpter.

(Out)Law & Order is 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](http://www.californiastories.org).

To remove your address from the (Out)Law and Order mailing list, send a message with "unsubscribe" in the subject line to [admin@outlawandorder.org](mailto:admin@outlawandorder.org)

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